



3

オレ

Denka Haaana
ハーナ殿下
Ryo Ueda
植田亮
Illustration

因心返し

ハイス・ベック村づくり

ついに訪れる決着の時——
逆召喚で絶体絶命!?

堂々の
クワイマックス!!

HIGH SPEC VILLAGE

— Ore no Ongaeshi: High Spec Murazukuri —

**- VOLUME 3 -
City's World**

**-AUTHOR-
Haaana Denka**

**-ILLUSTRATOR-
Ryo Ueda**

[Kari Translations]



Chapter 35

New Season and Looming Problems

At the center of the vast plains, a cobbled road extended both ways, towards the north and the south.

This road was one of the paved highways that were laid all across the continent in the era of the ancient super-empire.

Special products such as seafood and marine products, rare fruits and sugar were brought in these highways by commercial caravans from the warmer southern areas towards the north.

And also, from the north, grains, leather goods, and minerals, among other products, were carried towards the south.

This historical highway was the cornerstone of commerce and trade in the older times, and played an important role even today, since it reached several places and different cultures.

And in this very same highway, a mysterious group was currently traveling towards the south.

It appeared as simple dirty caravan, surrounded by a mounted escort.

To anyone who was to see it, it would seem as nothing more than some farmer from the mountainous area going to sell their produce.

And by looking at the large load in the carts, the destination was probably a big town to the south.

The cavalry escorts would be thought to be hired mercenaries to combat any thieves they were to encounter.

After all, along this highway a large bandit group was seen until just recently. The profits would obviously be lower, but escorts were a necessity.

But anybody who would take a closer look would find a sense of incongruity.

First of all, the horses the escorts were riding were of an amazing quality.

Anyone familiar with knights and horses would surely be surprised.

And would think they were mistakenly seeing an illusion of the great and rare Han horses. Generals and senior knights would grit their teeth, wanting to be the ones riding those splendid horses.

But there was something even more surprising.

The escorts were nothing more than ‘young children’. In the whole group, only two adults were seen, the rest were still young children.

Such young children were masterfully driving the wagon and riding those famous Han horses.

Having recently recovered its security, the road had still very few people traversing through it.

However, every time the group passed a merchant or traveler, they were bewildered by the strange sight.



“Yamato-nii-sama, the town is just a little further down this road. Also, there appears to be nothing suspicious ahead.”

“Thanks, and sorry to have you scouting, Kuran.”

“Not at all, thank you for your kind words, Nii-sama! “

A group of Han clan children came back from scouting and joined the rest of the caravan.

They reported no suspicious individuals were sighted at the road ahead or the surroundings.

And leading them was the beautiful girl Kuran, they all carried a Temujin Bow in their backs and were vigilant of the surroundings as the group came back and joined the

others in escorting the wagon.

“At long last... the city of Orn, Yamato-sama.”

“Yeah, we’re finally arriving. However, we can’t let our guard down yet, Liscia-san.”

“Yes! “

Sitting on the wagon, next to Yamato was Liscia, who unexpectedly floated a relaxed and merry expression on her face, but immediately turned serious again at Yamato’s concerns.

She continued to watch the surroundings, wary of anything suspicious, as she held her Marionette Bow on her hands.

“It can’t be helped that Liscia-nee-chan is happy, Yamato-niichan! “

“Yeah, and the city is so big and fun, Nii-chan! “

“That’s right! “

Together with them, some of the children of Urd were riding the wagon too, happily chatting and showing bright smiles.

But even then, everyone’s eyes were always carefully observing the surroundings, ready to act with their crossbows at any time.

“Is the city really that big? Liscia-san?”

“Yeah, that is a given! After all it has a lot of workshops and stores, and plenty of products are lined up in the market, like rare and nice fabrics, and exquisite jewelry. There’s also several food stalls, Yamato-sama.”

“I see. If you are that excited already, Liscia-san, then I’m really looking forward to it.”

“S-sorry... it’s just that it’s been a while since the last time I came here, so it made me really happy.”

“It’s fine. Let’s try and buy something for everyone if we succeed in selling what we brought.”

“That would be great, thank you very much! Yamato-sama.”

Yamato continued to watch the surroundings as they casually spoke.

I haven't sensed any danger so far, and it's great that we have a nice vantage point from the highway road, thought Yamato.

It appeared that the information they collected in advance was true, and the 'large group' of thieves that lurked along this road were really eliminated.

For now, it seems like we'll be able to trade...

After hearing about the highway being safe to travel again, they had made the choice to start trading.



This was several months after the extermination of the Spiritual Beast that inhabited the rock salt mine.

The farming work had ended and now it was the time just before the Inahon grains could be harvested. And with the prospects of a steady supply of food and salt, the life in the village had been nothing short of peaceful and stable.

“Alright, I think we should resume trading.”

That was Yamato's suggestion, to use the wagon they secured from the bandits to restart the trading.

If they were to secure the city's currency, they first needed to sell at the city the locally crafted products, along with the surplus of items in the village. And using that currency, they could then purchase and bring back products that couldn't be produced or obtained in the village.

The life in the mountainous village of Urd was for the most part one of self-sufficiency.

However, spices, medical supplies and items particular to other cities weren't available unless one went to buy them at a big city.

And so, it was decided that they would trade two carts full of Urd's 'special products.

“We’ll have to carefully select what items we will take.”

A variety of items will be tried.

And after seeing the reaction of the city’s merchants, Yamato planned to adjust the future trades.

“And the ones who will come with me are the following...”

The members who would accompany him were a few of the best trained children.

Yamato and Liscia would be the leaders, and the few children would be riding with them in the wagon.

The Han clan escort was also reduced to just Kuran and a few others.

The remaining people were tasked with continuing to work in the village and with the patrolling and defense of Urd.

Recently, there had been no rare occurrences nor dangers present around the village. So, I believe it will be okay for us to leave the village for a while, Yamato assumed.

And after finishing all the arrangements, they finally left the village.

Having a peace of mind, he now could just concentrate in the trade and negotiations in the city.



And a short time after, as they traveled south down the highway.

“Yamato-nii-sama! I can see the city of Orn.”

“Oh. Alright, thanks Kuran.”

The Han clan girl Kuran who was watching the surroundings spoke those words. Apparently, the city of Orn, which was their destination, was now visible.

And without any problems along the way, they were able to safely arrive at their destination.

So, this is going to be the moment when the city and the village of Urd will be connected again. Well then... I wonder whether restarting the trade is going to be a good thing or a bad thing?

While staring at the defensive walls of the city of Orn that could be seen in the distance, Yamato wondered in his mind.

Chapter 36

A City of a Different Word

The trip took several days after departing from the village, while riding the shaking wagon.

But they finally arrived at the city of Orn.

“So, this is what Orn looks like.”

“Yes, Yamato-sama. Orn is famous as a trade city.”

After finishing the procedures at the city wall gates, the group traveling from Urd finally entered the city.

And as they traversed the streets, Liscia happily explained to Yamato about the city of Orn while sitting next to him.

“Is this classified as a large city? “

“Yes, it’s one of the largest cities in the northern part of the continent.”

Having three main roads intersect it, Orn was a city that had flourished, enriched by the trade. Liscia explained that the town used a monarchy system, but it was independently managed by a viceroy/governor-general.

And this being the nearest city to Urd, Liscia had accompanied his grandfather several times as he visited Orn in the past.

Therefore, Yamato decided to count on Liscia as a guide.

“First, let’s find an inn with a stable, Yamato-sama.”

“Will the recommendation letter from the village chief help?”

“It will, that way there won’t be the need for some troublesome procedures.”

As they rode the wagon through the main street, their first stop was a cheap inn.

Those who came from Urd before, have always stayed in this inn, Yamato remembered the words of the village chief before their departure.

The owner of the inn was someone who had migrated here from Urd, and a kind person.

After they were to complete the accommodation procedures at the inn, the plan was to next head towards the bazaar that was located in the large plaza at the center of the city.

The purpose was obviously to sell the distinctive products of the village that were being carried, and it would also double as a market research for Yamato.

“Ok. Let’s go then.”

“Yes, Yamato-nii-sama! “

“Alright, Yamato-niichan.”

Both the children of Urd and from the Han clan showed no tiredness from the long journey.

And so, together with the group of energetic children, their first stop was the inn.



After finishing all the procedures without any issue at the inn, they then headed towards the large plaza in the city of Orn.

“So, this is the bazaar.”

“Yes, everyone is free to buy, but if we want to sell something, we first have to pay the location fee.”

“I see.”

A colorful and vibrant sight could be seen at the city’s bazaar.

Numerous individual shops and stalls were lined up, paving the various places of the plaza with a variety of well-arranged products.

Everything, from rare fruits from the south, to lustrous fabrics of the east. Exquisite ceramic goods and other miscellaneous items were piled up high and the vigorous sound of the sellers' voices permeated the place.

"This is the spot where we'll be selling out products today, Yamato-sama."

"Isn't this the pretty much the outskirts of the plaza?"

"It's because we arrived too late today, let's try to get a better location tomorrow."

"Yeah."

Like in any world, the best locations to sell were the first ones to be taken.

So, for today, after greeting the other sellers, they prepared the wagon, placing it next to their location alongside the bazaar.

The horses were taken to a nearby stable, and the rest of the children started to spread a cloth and arranging the products from Urd they were going to sell.

"I'll leave the items to you, Liscia-san. I'll go around to take a look."

"Yes, Yamato-sama. Please leave it to us."

Yamato decided to leave the preparation and customer service to Liscia and the children. *I'm not really good at socializing after all*, Yamato thought.

Therefore, it was a wise decision to leave it to them instead.

Alright then, let's see how this goes...

Heading alone towards the center of the plaza, Yamato went to do a little research.

He was a person transported from modern day Japan after all, and he was ignorant of the politics and economic situation of this different world.

He had heard about it, but he wanted to confirm it, the situation of this market and

this city, with his own eyes.



Wandering around this different world market, Yamato was exploring this different world city, Orn.

“The level of civilization is exactly the same as in the medieval ages.”

While inspecting the state of the city, such mumble escaped his lips. Of course, he was careful to keep his voice down as to not attract any attention.

“Medieval European Society”

That could sum up the vibe given by the city of Orn in comparison to Earth.

Stone buildings with their walls colorfully painted were lined up at the side of the streets, and the people lined up at the shops and stalls wore western-style clothing.

Liscia ha explained earlier that most of the northern part of the continent had a similar atmosphere.

“It appears that the economy is based on a unified currency. I wonder if the language is really also the same all across the continent?”

In one of the stories of the village chief, he had told Yamato that long ago, the currency and language of the whole continent had been unified.

That had happened in the age of the ‘super empire’ which unified the continent under the same banner a long time ago.

The rulers of this super empire were from a nation that had dominated the whole continent with their overwhelming force and special abilities.

Language, religion, currency, measurement units, they forced all the continent to use only one, the same for everyone.

And even to this day, that same commonality remained as a legacy left behind by the super empire.

“There are very different races. (*TLN: as in ethnic groups*) But there don’t seem to be any ‘demihumans’ anywhere...”

Plenty of people could be seen coming and going in this busy trade city, everyone with different races, skin colors, hair colors and facial features.

But those of a “demihuman” race... meaning those of mixed races such as beast men were nowhere to be seen.

Gaton, and the other from the Mountain Clan were from a different race than normal humans. However, they had features extremely similar to that of a human.

“Well, leaving that aside... the products lined up are truly of a low quality.”

At least that was Yamato’s honest impression of the products being sold at the bazaar.

In specific, if one were to compare them with the goods from Urd, the quality of the materials and the crafting were clearly of a lower quality.

“Or should I say [the skills of the people of Urd are excellent]... Or at least that’s how it feels so far.”

He remembered hearing from both Liscia and Gaton that the crafted goods from Urd were popular and were traded at high prices in the city.

And among them, leather goods, textile fabrics and iron products were especially popular among peddlers.

“I see... then this will be a great opportunity.”

While continued to look around in the bazaar, Yamato somewhat grasped the economic situation of the city of Orn.

And he recognized that the ‘Urd’ brand was valued higher than he had imagined.

What he first assumed to be rudimentary goods made in a frontier village, were actually very high quality, making them a rare commodity and increasing their value.

Based on that, he was convinced that once trade had resumed between the village and the city, the future of the village will be a bright one.

“Okay... I guess it’s about time I go back to everyone.”

After finishing his rough market research, Yamato decided to return to the place where they were selling the goods from the village.

And since some time had already passed since they opened for business, he was a little worried about the sales.

...huh?

But something was apparently wrong.

A loud and noisy group of people were in front of the Urd’s shop location.

“Yamato-sama, please help! “

Seeing him coming back, the girl Liscia came running asking for his help.

It appeared that while he was gone, the children were caught up in something troublesome.

Chapter 37

Bazaar

After returning from his research in the city of Orn, Yamato was welcomed by the sight of trouble.

“Yamato-sama, please help us.”

“What’s wrong Liscia-san.”

“It’s the costumers, they...”

Turning his gaze, he observed the people at the front of the Urd stall.

There, two costumers were arguing with each other about something.

“Sorry, ojii-san. I was the first to grab this leather item.”

“Hmph, like that would matter to me! I decided that this was going to be bought by me! “

“Calm down. Esteemed costumers. Both of you should settle down.”

The issue was apparently concerning the right to purchase some product. And the village child in charge of sales was troubled, trying to settle the costumers’ argument.

“I’ve always liked Urd’s leather products ojii-san, and finally I was able to find it.”

The first one to grab it was a young man. He spoke in a frivolous tone, almost in a playful manner.

“Like hell a brat like you would know that! These products are a gold mine! “

On the other hand, the man who came later was trying to pressure him into relinquishing to him.

He was plump and well-dressed, making it obvious that he was a rich merchant.

And right in front of the stall, these two men were quarreling about the lined-up goods.

In a bazaar without strict rules, this was but a common sight. The people around came and went without even batting an eye.

“It’s about time you two stop fighting in front of the shop.”

Grasping the situation, Yamato got closer and, while standing between them, he divided them to mediate. After all, further trouble might be bad for the business.

“What! How dare you! Who do you think you are!? “

“The owner of this shop.”

“Hoo... so you own this shop...”

At the sudden intervention, both of the men reacted differently. The adult man tried to intimidate him, and the playful young man seemingly was impressed about something.

“Our shop works on a first come, first served basis.”

“W-what!? If it’s about money, I have more than you can count! I’ll buy every item you are selling! “

“I’ll thankfully decline.”

I don’t want a worthless person to buy them, Yamato thought.

After all, these are the goods the old men and the children made in the village during the harsh winter, dedicating their whole hearts to craft them.

“That’s go... w-what!? Who do you think you’re speaking to!? I’m Viscount Butan, a noble merchant from the empire! “

“Sorry. I’m a little illiterate, so forgive me for not knowing who you are.”

In response to Yamato’s polite words, the man who called himself Viscount Butan had

its face turn red out of anger. His plump body trembled and it was as if, at any moment, he would unsheathe a sword if he had one and slash at Yamato.

“He’s making fun of me! Kill this peasant! “

Along with that instruction, those who were waiting behind the merchant moved.

They were probably mercenaries escorting him, or at least that’s what Yamato assumed by looking at the swords hanging from their waists. Faithfully obeying the orders of their employer, they tried to cut and kill him.

“It’s nothing personal, but die! “

The mercenaries moved with practiced movements, like this was a daily occurrence to them.

Killing a small shop owner wasn’t a big crime for them. That because their lord, a merchant part of the nobility always solved it with money.

“Eh...? “

But the mercenaries’ swords were never unsheathed.

“What... the heck...”

Because in a single moment, their beloved swords disappeared along with their sheaths from their waists. Not like someone taking them, but almost as if they simply vanished.

“Are you looking for this? “

“W... what... you bastard... how did you...”

The mercenaries’ face paled as they looked at the swords Yamato had on his hands.

It all happened without anyone noticing. Before they knew it, they were robbed of their swords by a simple merchant.

“Still want to have a go? “

Yamato looked towards the merchant and asked.

Implying in his gaze that is he were to cause more trouble than this, he would become serious. That's what Yamato's stare conveyed.

"I'll remember this! You'll definitely hear from me again! "

"You don't have to come buy anything again, ever."

Taking his mercenaries with him, the merchant nobleman fled the bazaar while spouting those words. Of course, Yamato gave the poor-quality swords back.

"Yamato-sama, thank you very much,"

"As expected of Yamato-niichan! "

"Alright guys, let's get back to work."

With the trouble resolved, the sales could be resumed at the stall.

Because of them, the bazaar had turned noisy at one time.

But as if nothing had happened, it regained its usual bustle.

Yamato noticed that in this trade city Orn, problems like what they just experienced were probably daily occurrences. So, it was best to get used to it.

"You really saved me back there, danna." *(TLN: like master or owner in a respectful way.)*

"I just did what anyone would do."

The young man who bought some leather goods a little while ago praised Yamato.

"But even so, you sure are strong."

"It's not really a big deal."

But Yamato didn't feel the need to be praised.

The movements of the mercenaries were slow and child-like, so he wasn't being modest. They never concealed how they tried to unsheathe the swords from their waists.

So, Yamato was doubtful that they were even proper mercenaries, having such poor combat skills.

He even honestly believed that the children from Urd and the Han clan were many times better.

"As expected of the 'rumored'...of 'Yamato from Urd village..."

"Rumored... you say? "

"Whoopsie, look at the time. I need to go back. Then, see you again, Yamato-danna! "

"Yeah."

The playful man said so and hurriedly left the bazaar.

However, to Yamato, that was an interest choice of words, those spoken by the young man.

Rumors, huh?... that sounds very unlikely...

Urd was a remote and closed up village in the mountainous area.

Until just recently, with the bandits lurking in the highway, there's no way for someone to have entered or left the village, he thought.

In other words, nobody but the villagers should know of his existence. There was no possibility of rumors spreading with that being the case

Or did I mishear?... but...

That peculiar man was strangely anxious.

His appearance was both frivolous and playful.

But it was obvious by his posture and way of walking, that he was no ordinary person.

He had received some form of training, or so Yamato thought.

“Yamato-niichan! “

“Huh? What’s wrong? “

One of the children who were in charge of selling called out to him.

“If you stand there making such a ‘weird face’ the customers won’t approach.”

“That’s right, smile, smile.”

It appeared that while he was immersed in his thoughts, he inadvertently had a hard look on his face.

After all, a ‘business smile’ was the basic and most important aspect of customer service.

“Like this? “

“That’s still weird! “

“Then...”

“Ya-Yamato-sama... go ahead and take a rest, we got this.”

Liscia then added.

So, he decided to leave the stall to her and the children.



Evening arrived, and the opening hours of the bazaar came to an end.

“We sold more than I thought we could in a single day, Yamato-sama.”

“Yeah, it went pretty well.”

Although they opened the stall only for a short time in the afternoon, the products were selling nicely.

Yet, many items still remained, to they planned to open again the next day earlier.

I hope nothing bad happens again... tomorrow will be the real deal.

He was a bit anxious, yet he was excited about tomorrow prospects.

Chapter 38

Invited to a Back Alley

The sales at the Urd street stall in the bazaar of Orn city were proceeding well the following days.

“Young lady, I’ll take that fabric.”

“Yes, one moment. “

Liscia, the village chief granddaughter had become the poster girl of the shop, and was enthusiastically working.

“Ohh, this leather craftsmanship... its dome very nicely.”

“I made that, Ojisan! “

“Such a young boy like you made this!? Alright, I’ll buy it! “

The children of the village also tried to appeal to the costumers with their innocent smiles.

It was hard for a newcomer, such as the group from Urd, to secure a good place in Orn’s bazaar.

But Urd’s quality craftsmanship had gained an unusual popularity across the city.

There were also good reviews from old costumers, and after a few days of opening the shop, a crowd of people always came.

“Hey, Jii-san. How much for this amazing dagger!?”

“Hey, come look at this. That spear... I’ve never seen anything like that...”

Meanwhile, the products made by the old Mountain Clan blacksmith Gaton were also drawing quite the attention.

“Hmph, that is not for sale. Same goes for the spear.”

“Then, how about this knife? “

“That too, I doubt you’ll be able to properly use it.”

But Gaton, being the stubborn crafter that he was, rarely gave a positive answer.

It was well known that the Mountain Clan craftsmen, loved by the God of iron and fire, were famous for selling only to those who had an equal ability to that of their products.

“Hey, Gaton... Do you really intend to sell something to the costumers? “

“Hmph, I don’t intend to sell anything to amateurs.”

“I see.”

Even after Yamato questioned his work policy, Gaton’s conviction remained unbent.

The only saving grace is that the costumers know the Mountain Clan People are stubborn, Yamato was relieved by this fact.

Gaton had also came with the group from the very first day.

“By the way, Jii-san, have you recovered now from the motion sickness? “

“I just don’t like vehicles that take my feet off of the ground, hmph! “

Surprisingly, the Mountain Clan People were people of the earth, and were weak against riding horses and wagons.

He got light-headed since it had been quite some time since the last time he rode a wagon. But he finally had recovered this morning.

It really caught me by surprise that there’s such a weakness in the Mountain Clan People that I thought to be all-purpose, Yamato felt a little amused by this fact.

Then, he went to the wagon, to get some more merchandise to replenish the stall.

“Ah, Yamato-dana!”

At that time, he heard a frivolous voice calling his name.

“Oh, it’s you again.”

“It’s not ‘you’, its Lacq.”

“Oh, I see.”

That teasing voice belonged to a young man... his name, Lacq.

The young man who, on the first day, had caused a ruckus along with a noble merchant over some ‘leather goods’ had come again to the store.

By the way, ever since that day, he had scored a ‘perfect attendance record’, visiting every single day.

“Liscia-chan, today as well, you look quite cute.”

“Please save your compliments, Lacq-san.”

“You’re being cold again.”

And the same as usual, he called out to the poster girl, Liscia.

She was wary of Lacq at first, but she now got used to his everyday praise.

“Ohh, its Lacq-ojisan! “

“Ah, it’s true. He came today again, he really is a person with a lot of free time! “

“I think you mean to say ‘unemployed’. Lacq-ojisan looks like a lazy person! “

“No no no... you there, the term is ‘debauchee’. Besides, I’m still young, you should call me ‘onii-san’.”

Even among the village children, Lacq has become inconspicuously popular.

His tone was light and was an easy person to talk to, not counting their conversations were pretty much at the same level. That made him get along with the children incredibly well.

He's quite a unique guy... but there's something strange about him...

He acted a bit clumsy, in a way that it was hard to think it was an act.

Perhaps it's a refined technique to make the other party drop their vigilance, Yamato thought.

He was the type that would make friends with anyone immediately.

Even Yamato felt like he was already caught up in Lacq's pace.

"Ohhhhhhh? Today there's also a Mountain Clan person here? "

"Oh. You can give it a shot, but I doubt he'll sell you anything."

The old blacksmith Gaton was resting his motion sickness until yesterday. So, today was the first day that Lacq has seen the newly lined-up goods.

"Alrighty, let's take a look."

After a light reply, Lacq began to peep at Gaton's blacksmith products.

"Ohh... this is..."

That moment.

Lacq's expression changes for a moment, his eyes becoming sharp.

Behind his line of sight was a 'red crystal sculpture'.

His eyes weren't captured by the great number of amazing metal products made by Gaton.

What Lacq was astonished to see was the sight of a certain 'sculpture' that didn't attract the interest of any of the other customers.

Ohh... so he noticed the value of 'that'...

None of the people had noticed the subtle gaze of Lacq.

Yamato was the only one who didn't miss it.

"Is something wrong, Lacq? You suddenly look bad."

"Ehh, is that so? I'm always feeling great! But even so, that is truly a wonderful spear."

He quickly recovered and replied as if nothing had happened. A splendid change.

"By the way, Yamato-danna." Are you free now? "

Lacq turned the conversation around, to not let his emotions show.

"I'm running a business. Do I look free to you?"

"I guess that's true... but just a little..."

I answered like that, but the truth is I got pretty much nothing to do right now, Yamato though.

After all, his work was sporadic, and he was never face to face with the customers.

"Yamato-sama. Its ok to leave the store to us."

"Yeah, yeah, its ok. You can go, Yamato-niichan! "

Liscia and every child that was in charge of selling reassured Yamato that they would be okay without his help.

It was likely that they cared for him and due to the fact the these past few days, Yamato was doing all the heavy lifting and working without rest.

"...So that means, we're free to go now. Yamato-danna."

"Go where? "

"It's a nice place."

The self-proclaimed debauchee Lacq invited Yamato, while just giving a vague explanation. It obviously was a suspicious invitation.

However, the man's request had a mysterious charm that made it hard to refuse.

"Then, take care of the rest, Liscia-san."

"Yeah, leave it to me, Yamato-sama."

Leaving the stall to Liscia, Yamato decided to accept the invitation of Lacq.



Along with Lacq, Yamato walked down the streets of Orn.

"How far are we going? "

"Just a little more, Yamato-danna..."

Currently there were no people around, just Yamato and Lacq. As he followed, they entered an unknown alley.

Of course, Yamato was paying close attention to his surroundings and remembering the direction where they came from, but it appeared they were quite the distance away from the center of the city.

"Danna, please wait here for just a moment."

"Oh. Hurry up then."

Lacq stopped in front of an old mansion.

Apparently, this was their goal. Looks like there are people in this mansion who want to meet me by all means, he thought.

"I'll just go inform really quick."

The other party probably was someone important, and with a strong sense of vigilance.

Yamato let Lacq enter alone, to quickly solve the issue.

The he was left all by himself in the alley.

It's a very old house...

It was an old building, but its construction was solid.

The Lord of this house may be a person of high status. However, it seems like they lack the means to care for this big mansion.

Yamato then wondered whether it was because of a shortage of people or some financial difficulties.

Never mind that, that Lacq guy sure is taking his time...

It happened then, as he was waiting for Lacq at the back door of the mansion.

.....Eh!?

As he noticed something strange going on, Yamato placed his hand on the handle of the knife he had on his back.

One... two... three... four...

From the bloodlust they let out, he measured the number of enemies.

Alone in a dim-lit back alley, he was surrounded by someone.

“Thieves?... no, seems more like professional assassins, huh?”

A group dressed in black surrounded Yamato.

All around him were armed men who were obviously trained to kill.

Chapter 39

Assasins

In a back alley in Orn, Yamato was surrounded by a black-dressed armed group.

Who are they...?

Just as he was wondering that, his opponents took action.

One of them separated from the group, approaching Yamato.

The other several men, seemingly not caring about Yamato, invaded the mansion's courtyards, one after the other.

Judging from their movements, Yamato was aware that this armed group had received some special training.

So, their target isn't me... but probably the owner of this mansion...

Those were his immediate thoughts.

He had come together with that self-called debauchee Lacq to this mansion.

But he went ahead inside saying that he had to inform the 'master of the mansion' first.

That meant the lord of this mansion was the enemies' target.

So, to them, I'm just an eyewitness...

One of their goals was to erase any potential witnesses who might see them in the alley. And seeing Yamato's merchant-like getup, they decided he was an opponent easy enough for just one of them to clean up.

"Who are you? "

"....."

Questioning the person in black walking towards him, he received no answer. The face was hidden behind a cloth, making it hard to read that person's expression.

Then, pointing the knife that had its edge covered in some kind of dark liquid towards Yamato, he attacked without saying a word. (It's probably some kind of poison, Yamato assumed.

There was no hesitation in the attacker's movements, and attacked Yamato using the poison-covered blade edge.

There were no wasteful movements, so it seemed like the other party was indeed a skilled assassin.

"Still... too slow."

"....."

As they crossed each other, Yamato slashed at the opponent's neck.

He was currently only equipped with a single self-defense knife. However, for him who had improved physical abilities, that was more than enough to deal with an opponent of this skill level.

As expected, there's nothing...

After rummaging through the body of the defeated enemy, he couldn't find a single item that would give some clue as to who this person was.

He also removed the cloth in order to check the face, but it was an unknown person to him. It was easy to guess that this group were professional assassins, and intruded into the mansion with a clear objective in mind.

I can still feel the bloodlust from those guys... are they still going at it...?

The black dressed group had already invaded the mansion. So, he could just overlook this incident and leave the place.

But in that case, that freeloader Lacq would surely be caught in the mess. He would become a casualty of this mysterious assassins' group.

Such a troublesome thing to occur at this time...

His proper weapons were hidden beneath the double floor of the wagon back at the bazaar.

And right now, the only weapon he had at hand was the self-defense knife. It was a good knife, but it wasn't enough to fight against such a force.

"Damn, I guess there's no other choice."

He couldn't just walk away.

He decided to intrude into the old mansion to save Lacq, all the while cursing inside.

◇ ◇ ◇

He crossed the wall, going into the old mansion.

"The second one..."

'Erasing' the black guard watching over the entrance, he counted.

With this, the remaining number of enemies was nine. Of course, his voice was but a murmur, so that others could not hear him.

All things considered, there was less resistance than I expected...

He described his opinion while gazing at the knife stuck on the second enemy in black.

At first sight, he considered them quite tempered.

However, after he actually confronted and defeated them, he felt slightly disappointed. He overwhelmed the, without ever leaving time for them to utter a single word.

If their all like this... they're at the same level as the kids from Urd and the Han clan...

He wasn't speaking relatively, this was his honest opinion.

A little after he arrived in the village of Urd, starting the autumn of last year, he began teaching the children 'hunting' and 'self-defense arts'.

Those arts were the fighting techniques that were drilled into him by his self-proclaimed adventurer parents. He taught them to everyone in the village.

And comparing these assassins fighting skills with that of the children, he couldn't help but to think of the kids as geniuses.

Are the physical abilities of the people of Urd higher...? And the Han children too...

Urdians were peaceful people who now lived quietly in the frontier.

However, according to the village chief's story, in older times, the people of Urd were warmongers who excelled in martial skills.

Maybe by placing themselves in dangerous situations and training, their instincts are awakening little by little.

The Han clan, now simply a minority, were the descendants of the Grassland's King. They too, probably had a similar story.

Still, I can't let my guard down...

He decided he wouldn't go easy on his opponents.



After that, he continued advancing through the old house.

"Three..."

"Four..."

The same way as before, he took down all the lookouts he encountered.

He felt no guilt about his killing spree.

From the time he decided to live in this world and help the village of Urd, he had already made up his mind. 'Those who unsheathed a blade were prepared to kill or be killed'.

Totally different than Japan, which could be considered a peaceful country. This was

an unforgiving world which would get oneself killed for a moment of hesitation.

Yet, he felt fortunate that no sense of guilt had taken over him so far, even after the lives he had taken.

Maybe this too is an effect of my body and senses strengthening, he thought. He concluded that maybe his spirit was also strengthened, increasing his mental tolerance.

Huh... so in the room ahead...?

He moved forward, going through the worn-out mansion.

Further ahead, voices of people fighting could be heard.

One of them was a frivolous and familiar voice. Most likely it belonged to Lacq.

Yamato found himself with no time to hesitate.

So, while kicking the heavy wooden door, he came in rushing into the room.

“Yamato-danna! “

Lacq shouted at the sudden appearance that invaded the room.

His voice was as frivolous as ever, but a strange tint dyed it, making it slightly different. However, with this, Yamato could at least confirm his safety.

“Danna, It’s dangerous in here! “

Along with Lacq’s warning, four shadows came down attacking Yamato from the corners of the room.

Four people, huh...?

Four assassins with blades painted in a black liquid charged at Yamato without making a sound.

Their movements were visible faster than the opponents he had defeated so far, so these were probably the elite force in the group.

As soon as they saw Yamato entering the room, they never hesitated and came attacking him with the poisoned blades in hand. The four of them assaulted him, showing excellent cooperation.

“Haa! “

With a yell to encourage himself, Yamato intercepted the assassins.

Using the knife on his right hand, as well as his other free hand and feet, he killed his opponents.

“Im-impossible... we had the advantage...”

The single assassin that was still alive let out his voice for the first time.

He was astonished to see Yamato defeat four people at the same time with a single knife and movements that he was not able to perceive.

“Tsk...”

Judging that the newly arrived person was someone he couldn't defeat.

The surviving assassin clicked his tongue and decided to run away.

His escape route was going through the windows that faced the outside of the mansion. It was a quick decision, executed in a splendid manner.

“Danna, you're a life saver! “

“Oh. Are you okay? “

“Yeah! “

Lacq rushed towards Yamato to express his thanks. He didn't show any injury and appeared to be safe.

It appeared that Yamato had stormed the room just shortly after the assassins showed up.

So, his decision to hurry up payed off.

“Who are these guys? “

“Not sure... but maybe their goal was this person’s life...”

As he said so, Lacq moved his gaze over to the other person that was in the room.

Maybe the master of the mansion, and the person Lacq wanted to introduce me to, Yamato thought.

That reasoning was easily inferred by the expensive clothing the other party was wearing.

“Care to explain, Lacq?”

Although he was just caught up by chance, it was unquestionable that Yamato’s life was also targeted.

So, he felt the need to know the situation in more depth in case something came up in the future.

“Yeah, Danna. Actually, this person is...”

“Lacq-san, I’ll do the explaining from here on...”

The master’s words blocked Lacq’s explanation.

That voice was quiet and gentle, but also dignified.

“My name is Isis. In the Consul of Orn stead... I’m acting as the regent.”

The beautiful girl introduced herself as Isis.

Then, Yamato proceeded to ask directly to the acting regent of the city of Orn, about the circumstances that lead to her being targeted for murder.

Chapter 40

The Consul Maiden Regent

From Isis, the young representative of the city of Orn, Yamato heard the circumstances that led to her life being targeted.

“In other words, you mean to say, it is the city of Orn the one being targeted?”

“Yes. I cannot say for sure, but I do have an idea about who the other party might be...”

As he received a rough explanation from Isis, Yamato went over the contents again.

This was a trading city where three roads intersected. In consequence, mayor trading firms from several countries have made it its home, increasing the tax revenue.

In addition to that, Orn was an ‘independent city state’ not belonging to any country, where the governing system had been made hereditary.

Surrounded by its strong city walls built thanks to the rich trade, it had kept its autonomy for many years, and it also had its own knight order and mercenary corps.

“This sounds quite similar to the town of Sakai during the Sengoku era...”

“Eh, Sakai...? What is that...? “

“No, never mind. Please continue.”

Orn had been fighting, keeping its independency for many years. However, the circumstances of the surrounding nations have changed recently.

“That’s because the rapid advancements in the Hisan Empire, right?”

“Yeah...”

The nation called Hisan Empire, which had the eastern part of the continent as its territory, had gradually expanded its power in recent years.

It hadn't reached the border with Orn just yet.

However, it was expected to become a force to be reckon, and that it will definitely invade some years in the future.

"Did the other party came with diplomatic pressure at the beginning?"

"Yes... It happened a few months ago. An emissary from the empire came with a missive recommending out surrendering."

"And he was turned down, I suppose."

"Yes! My Orn would never yield to that kind of pressure! "

The angry Isis recalled the contents brought by the messenger from the Hisan Empire.

[Surrender the government of Orn to the Empire, if you do so, we will spare your life.]

The ruler of Orn, whom had been defending its independency for years, immediately refused.

The empire had momentum, but it was a recent addition to the world's powers.

For the city of Orn it was not a threat as long and they had the shielding of their surrounding allied nations and their own financial strength and military power.

"But the current ruler... your father fell ill to some mysterious disease."

"Yes... he still hasn't woken up..."

It happened about a month ago... after they refused the demands of the messenger from the empire.

She explained that her father, the current consul, hasn't awaken since he caught some mysterious disease.

It was a peculiar illness that made him unable to regain consciousness.

Therefore, Isis, her only daughter suddenly found herself acting as a regent, and managing the city along with a group of vassals.

“And now this assassination attempt.”

“Yeah... just as you say.”

“So, you tried to hide in this inconspicuous and run down mansion?”

“Saying it like that is a little...”

Isis felt a little distressed.

She knew the one behind all these orchestrated strategies was the Hisan Empire, but she couldn't say it without proof.

They tried to undermine their opponent before their full invasion of Orn. And to take Orn down from within would be the best outcome.

“I understand the gist of it. So, where do I come in the picture? “

According to Lacq's story, Yamato was brought to this mansion because there was someone who wanted to meet him.

In other words, this girl Isis probably ordered Lacq to bring me because she wanted to see me. It was easy to connect the dots.

“I heard from Lacq-san... rumors about a ‘Sage in the north’...”

“‘Sage in the north’...? “

“Yeah...”

Isis then began talking about the rumors she heard from Lacq.

A small northern village was destined to be destroyed, but one day, a savior arrived.

That person saved the starving villagers, and with technology never seen before, he solved their problems and food shortage, one after the other.

In addition, with his excellent tactical insights, he eliminated a cruel and outrageous

bandit group without sacrificing a single villager's life.

And that savior... the "Sage in the north" had finally arrived to the city of Orn.

"I see, so 'Sage in the north'? And he's that great of a person?"

While listening to Isis' story, Yamato was quite impressed. *If the rumors are true, then this 'Sage in the north' might be quite the person. He seems like a great person not only good in domestic affairs but also in tactical insight.*

Right now, I'm staying in Orn, so I'd like to have the chance to meet him.

"The 'Sage in the north', that is you, Yamato-danna."

"What...?"

Yamato looked at Lacq as if he was misunderstanding something. However, he clearly heard him say that he was the sage in the north.

"But, I'm just an ordinary villager, Lacq."

"Again with that, even after you just did something amazing, you are quite humble Danna."

Lacq was complimenting him, but for Yamato, what he did in the village was but a trivial reform. He only shared some of his knowledge with the villagers as repayment for taking care of him.

I don't know where Lacq got this information, but it's more like rumors and closer to misinformation.

"Please, 'Sage in the north'...no, Yamato-sama. Please, Save the city of Orn!"

But in front of him, there was someone who wholeheartedly believed those rumors. Isis was asking with a serious look on her face. She wanted to give him the position of military adviser, and with his help protect the city of Orn from the hands of the Empire.

It wasn't an act, she had a serious expression as she asked earnestly.

“Sorry, but I’ll have to refuse. I’m not really the person you were describing, not even close to a Sage.”

“Why not!? We will prepare enough money and a fitting position as compensation! “

“It’s not about the money.”

Yamato gave an immediate refusal to the request of the acting regent, the girl Isis.

“Not about money...”

“Yeah, people are stirred into action by their love of ‘justice and righteousness’. That’s what it means to ‘show special confidence and courtesy’.”

(TLN Sanko no Rei, an expression often used to refer to the action of convincing someone to take a post or do something, doesn’t translate well to english. Think of an example as the speech of ‘changing the world’ or ‘making the country better’ that some stories tell to convince the MC to do something. Basically, he’s making fun of her for not selling him a great cause. Also, remember this term, it comes up in a couple chapters again)

““To show special confidence and courtesy’...? “

Isis tilted her head as she heard a strange phrase for the first time. Of course, it was obvious that she wouldn’t understand it, since it was from a different culture, so the meaning was not transmitted.

Anyway, this is good... it’s not really a discussion to have with an amateur.

This was his way to refuse Isis’ request. He felt he was being overrated due to a misunderstanding since Yamato didn’t consider himself that big of a person.

He wasn’t trained in military arts, and didn’t receive special education that would allow him to improve the political and economic structure of the city state either. At best, he was a general university graduate who had a hobby of going outdoors.

For him, it was an exaggeration to see him as a Sage or a Military Strategist just because he happened to save a small, poor village with a little of his knowledge.

“I understand, Yamato-sama. I will review the meaning of ‘to show special confidence and courtesy’, and then I’ll speak with you again.”

“Yeah, suit yourself. I’ll stay in Orn for a while.”

It seemed like Isis wasn’t going to give up that easily. She was determined to appoint Yamato as a military adviser. One could tell from the strong will in her eyes.

She’s younger than me, but hers surely is a strong heart...

She appeared as a bit unreliable, but deep down, Isis was a strong girl. Yamato changed his view of her a little.



It was around that time, when the talk had ended.

“Isis-sama!! “

“My lady, are you safe!? “

Along with intense metallic sounds, an armored group wielding with swords and shields ran into the room.

According to Isis, they were Orn’s knight order.

They came running, searching for the figure of their Lady, Isis.

At least, with the arrival of her knights she will be safe, Yamato thought.

“Hey, suspicious guy! Are you a friend from these scums!? “

Mistaken by an ally of the black clothed assassins, Yamato was questioned by a knight.

After all, he had unusual black eyes and hair. *Well, if I were in their position, I too will think of me as someone suspicious,* Yamato thought.

“Lienhardt, stop! Yamato-sama is the person who saved my life! “

With the arrival of the Knights, the story will surely become more complicated.

He decided that it was best to leave this place after the arrival of this knight Lienhardt.

“Well then Lacq, sorry but I should return already.”

“I’ll come play again to the bazaar! “

“Yeah, can’t wait for that.”

He was sure things would get more complicated if he remained there.

Still, he felt a little sympathy for the young Isis, who had to take on the role of acting regent.

However, he had to care for the village.

Leaving the old mansion behind, Yamato returned to the Urd stall in the bazaar.

Chapter 41

A night in Orn

After refusing the request from the consul regent girl, Yamato went back to the Urd stall in the bazaar of Orn city.

“Yamato-sama, welcome back.”

“You took a long time, Yamato-niichan! “

“Yeah.”

Since a long time had passed since Yamato went out, the stall was cleared of most items that were sold out.

Today as well, the sales had gone pretty well.

Perhaps they sold better since the customers didn't have to see my unfriendly face? At least that's how it felt for Yamato, seeing that scene.

“It seems like it's been going better than planned. You can take the day off tomorrow as a reward.”

He told them the plans for tomorrow.

There was still a stock of products from Urd left.

However, as a reward for their daily efforts, Yamato decided that it would be best to leave the following day as a holiday.

So, after preparing some pocket money from the earnings from the sales, he handed it over to the children.

He told them they should take it slowly tomorrow and enjoy sightseeing and shopping in the town.

“Oh, cool! “

“Yamato-niichan, you sure are generous! “

“Being so generous, you sure you’re okay!? Spears may rain tomorrow! “

“Just don’t be careless kids, the city is a dangerous place.”

He prepared a dagger for the children to use in self-defense. He also instructed them to use a whistle signal if they by any change encountered danger.

Being in a city, it was indeed hard to make use of a crossbow.

However, he knew the children were fast and would quickly escape if they encountered a ‘similar opponent’.

They should be fine since they are already hunters who risk their lives every day hunting Big Rabbits and Wild Boars. Also... what’s with the spears raining...?

“Alright, let’s go back to the inn.”

After packing up the rest of the items in the bazaar’s stall, they returned to the inn.

After this, they would take a shower to clean themselves, and after eating dinner at the inn, the children would go to bed.

For Yamato, the children going to bed early was especially important, seeing as they were in their growing period.

It is said that sleeping during midnight is when the growth hormone is most secreted. They need to balance training their body and resting properly to promote a healthy growth.

“Hey, kid.”

In the middle of their return trip, Gaton’s voice called to Yamato.

“Jii-san, what is it?”

“Care to have ‘a drink’ with this old man tonight? “

Gaton invited him to have a drink after dinner. He said he wanted to go to a nearby bar after the children went to sleep.

“Sure, I don’t mind.”

Since Yamato didn’t dislike liquor, he saw no reason to refuse. He also wanted to see the state of this world, of Orn, in the nights.

And so, it was decided that he would go to drink at night with the old Gaton.



Leaving the children in the care of Liscia in the inn, He and Gaton left the inn and moved to a nearby downtown area.

From that place it was easy to rush towards the inn in case something happened.

Besides, Liscia and the children grew up in a remote village that had quite dangerous surroundings. They had high awareness of dangers during the night and were sure to react swiftly.

“Good, my usual seat is free.”

Led by Gaton, they arrived to a bar.

Even while comparing it with other stores, this was just an ordinary and standard drinking bar.

However, the insides of the bar were filled with energy, and a rich aroma from spices drifted away from the kitchen. It was a shop with a nice atmosphere.

“Have you been here before? “

“When I came to Orn some years ago to do some work.”

“I see.”

Traveling wasn’t the favorite thing for Gaton, who hated riding.

Still, he said he had traveled to this city before for a request, after all, he was one of

the best blacksmiths in the continent.

And at that time, this was a tavern he frequented.

“Cheers, to the good sales we’ve had so far.”

“Yeah.”

After pouring the liquor that was brought into a mug, Gaton lifted it up and cheered. Its taste was sour, a liquor made from fruits that resembled red wine.

Since they just had dinner along with the children at the inn, the alcohol was drank without much resistance.

The same as in the village of Urd, foods and seasonings were mainly western styled. And even up until this moment, Yamato hadn’t seen a signboard written in japanese in Orn.

“By the way, you came back this afternoon making a troubled face, did something happen? “

While drinking, Gaton asked Yamato. Since they didn’t tell lies, the Mountain Clan People were very straightforward with their questions.

However, since Yamato disliked beating around the bush, he liked that side of Gaton.

“It’s not really a big deal...”

Briefly explaining the uproar in which he was involved, Yamato told him about what had happened this afternoon.

That after being led by Lacq, he met Orn’s acting regent, a girl named Isis. About the mysterious assassins’ group.

Obviously, all the while being careful to keep his voice down so that the people around them could not hear the conversation.

“Quite the reckless guy, as always.”

“I didn’t do much. I also refused the request, so it has nothing to do with us.”

“That might be the case, but you still have that troubled face.”

“I see...”

Perhaps, deep down, Yamato was still worried about those events.

He remembered the serious face of the young girl acting in stead of the city’s consul, the girl who tried to appeal to the “Sage in the north” in order to catch a chance that would make them not fall into a crisis.

“Ohh, could it be... Gaton!? “

It was then.

A Mountain Clan man approached from inside the bar.

He was one of Gaton’s old craftsman pals, a glass craftsman who lived in this city of Orn.

“You sure have gotten old! “

“I’m one year younger than you! “

The pair of bearded mountain clan old men greeted each other with their hands on each other’s shoulders.

Seeing them like that, it was hard to know which was Gaton. They both looked the same. With faces resembling each other that much, it was likely they were distant relatives.

The Mountain Clan man joined, and the three of them drank liquor as they chatted together.

“How’s the economy in Orn? “

“Not really bad. It’s just...”

The glass craftsman answered Gaton’s casual question.

Since a few months ago, merchants and commodities of other countries have forced their way into the city of Orn.

That other party has sold items while ignoring profits, throwing the market into a turmoil.

In addition, the Consul has fallen ill and is currently unconscious. So, he hasn't been able to attend the official meetings in the Chamber of Commerce.

And as a result, the confusion is further spreading in each association, including the glass workers association.

Indeed... is the empire even trying to hide their schemes at this point...?

Most likely, it was a merchant backed by the empire the one who forcefully entered the city.

It was a great opportunity for that merchant to expand his name into the city of Orn.

And by having the backing of a large country, his profits would be returned in the long run.

And with that being the case, Orn's personal stores were not able to compete. It was a dire situation that they couldn't overcome unless they cooperated with each other and with the Consul.

"But, it's okay! "

After finishing his story, the glass craftsman confidently said.

"What makes you feel so sure? "

"Ah, because Isis-sama is in charge of the city now."

"The acting regent girl..."

"Yeah... she is a sincere person, unusual for a human, and Isis-sama is also a hard-working person..."

The old craftsman went further into detail, answering Gaton's question.

Certainly, the consul regent Isis was still young.

But she loved this city more than anyone, and she kept doing her best even skipping sleeping sometimes.

Unlike the consuls of the past and the knights, she listened without distinction to commoners and craftsmen.

He said that she never spoke in lies and that she was seriously doing her best to manage the city.

So, even with the issue about the empire's merchant, he was sure the merchants' associations would be fine.

The old craftsman praised the regent girl almost as if he was praising his own child.

It was an uncommon sight to see a craftsman going that far with the praises in a big city like Orn.

Perhaps, even the citizens recognized the passion of the Consul's daughter after knowing her for many years.

"But, Isis-sama is too serious... I'm worried about what would happen to her if she's involved in a fight."

It was indeed dangerous for that girl to be so straightforward.

The knight guards around her were strong, but not ideal to counter sneaky measures and traps.

The current Consul's state, her father's, was proof of that.

As things stood, it was just a matter of time before the city of Orn... before that girl fell into a trap from the empire.

———*Indeed... unless someone helps her.*

“I remembered I had something to do. I’ll go back first.”

“Okay... we’ll stay drinking a bit more. We might take our time...”

Leaving Gaton and the old craftsman behind, Yamato stood from his seat.



After leaving the bar, the night’s breeze embraced Yamato as he made his way towards the inn.

Although flourishing as a trade city, the traffic at night in Orn was little and more so in a back alley.

Most likely, the acting regent would be working hard at this time instead of taking it slowly, or so Yamato believed.

.....*huh?*

Feeling the presence of a person in front of the inn, Yamato stopped his feet.

Just in case, he made sure he had the knife on his waist.

However, his alertness fades as soon as he noticed a familiar figure.

“What’s wrong? Coming this late at night?”

“Sorry for the inappropriate hour, Yamato-sama... I was waiting for you.”

Waiting for him in the alley in front of the inn, a beautiful girl draped in a cloak came out... Isis, the consul regent.

Chapter 42

Showing Special Confidence and Courtesy (Sanko no Rei)

Also, some of the character's illustrations.

You know Liscia, Yamato, Guts and Chlöe since they appear in the volume 1 cover.



Here, from left to right, Gatou, Kuran, Lienhardt and Isis.

Isis, the consul regent girl waited for Yamato in the alley in front of the inn.

“Coming alone at this late hour... no, I guess you *do* have an escort.”



“Yes. I was scolded for trying to come alone...”

The girl waited in the darkness, but she was not alone.

In a place not far away, there was an escort knight.

It was one of the knights who rushed towards the mansion's room the other day, Yamato recalled his name was Lienhardt.

“Lienhardt is one of the strongest knights in this part of the continent, even earning him the title of <Ten Swords>. I really trust him.”

“Yeah, I can tell.”

Even in Yamato's amateur eyes, the man called Lienhardt was of considerable skill.

Their age shouldn't be so far apart, but Yamato could feel the dignified air of a battle-hardened swordsman in him.

Of course, himself being neither a swordsman nor a knight, he felt no need to compare himself with that person any further.

“Sorry for coming this late at night, Yamato-sama.”

“What do you want? “

The current time could be considered late.

After all, in this world without electricity or artificial lightening, night truly came as soon as the sun was down.

Yamato remembered the story he heard from the glass craftsman at the bar, about how this consul regent girl was a hard worker.

So, he assumed that Isis hadn't come downtown with leisure in mind.

“In fact... I came to deliver the ‘first’ of the ‘three compensations’”

“Three compensations (San ko no Rei)... you say? “

“Yes, ‘three compensations’ (San ko no Rei)! For the first one... I decided to bring this fruit, it’s one of Orn’s specialties.”

As she replied, Isis handed over to Yamato a bright red fruit.

She explained that this was a fruit she painstakingly cultivated in the courtyard of the Consul main mansion. And it also happened to be a fruit local to Orn and her favorite one.

I wonder if she mistook the ‘sanko’ (三顧-sanko) for ‘three items’ (三個-sanko)...

It appeared Isis had misunderstood Yamato’s words when he refused in a more literal meaning.

She said she would bring ‘Orn’s specialties’, one each day for the next three days.

“I see. But still, I’m not going to become your military advisor.”

“It’s okay, I already gave up on that.”

“You... gave up? “

“Yes. What I want now is for Yamato-sama to like it.”

“To like it...? “

“Yeah, this city, I want you to like the city of Orn.”

With a tint of seriousness in her eyes, Isis spoke.

She said she wanted those who came from Urd to enjoy their stay in this city, and for them to get to really know and like Orn.

That would be the best way to convey the charm of Orn.

After being told so with that seriousness, Yamato couldn’t think of it as a joke.

“You say some strange things, don’t you?”

“Yeah... I’m often told that.”

“Anyway, its already late. You should go back.”

Even with her knight escort, she was still the consul regent.

And especially now with the situation being delicate, going outside at night was probably not a good idea.

Yamato felt he shouldn't be taking her time at this hour since she would most likely end up working without having enough time to rest.

“Thank you for your thoughtfulness. May I come again tomorrow? Yamato-sama...”

“Do as you like.”

“Understood, thank you very much! “

After bowing her head, Isis happily walked away.

There was no scheming in her actions, she truly wanted Yamato to [like the city of Orn!] , that he understood.

Oh god... it feels like this is just the start...

Feeling caught up in Isis' pace, Yamato wryly smiled.

He questioned how could he, who was quite bad at socializing, deal with this kind of girl.

“Hey, ‘Yamato’...”

It was then.

Quite an angry voice called out to him.

Its owner was Lienhardt, a knight in service of the Consul. He didn't pull out his sword, but his killing intent was as obvious as the day.

“I'll never acknowledge you, bastard.”

It felt like a declaration of war.

A hostility directed at Yamato, after her lady master went out of her way to visit this person.

But since Yamato had no ulterior motives nor any feeling in particular, he could only think of *'please, spare me the trouble'*.

"There's no need for you to accept me."

"What!? Bastard! "

"Later."

While ignoring the knight, Yamato went inside the inn.

Geez... weak to some cheap provocation, aren't we...?"

Lienhardt might stood as a top swordsman, but his mind was still immature.

Those who couldn't remain calm would certainly fall into a dangerous situation one day, or at least that's how Yamato felt. Especially taking into account the current situation they were in.



"Welcome back, Yamato-sama."

At the entrance of the inn, the village chief's granddaughter, Liscia welcomed him.

She had felt the signs of people outside and woke up as she was sleeping with the children.

Armed with her Marionette Bow, she waited ready to act just in case something happened.

Her senses were sharp. She obviously sensed the presence of the girl Isis and the knight Lienhardt.

"That 'woman' just now, she had been waiting for Yamato-sama to return for a while now."

“I see...”

Isis quietly waited for Yamato to return, since he had gone out drinking and wasn't sure when he would return.

Liscia worried since she saw her wearing quite a serious expression, and also because she was of the same sex.

“It's fine. Tomorrow is a day off. You should take it easy and rest, or go shopping and sightseeing, Liscia-san.”

Yamato worried about her.

If he wasn't clear about it, the dedicated Liscia would probably use the day to do some kind of work.

After all, the Urd stall at the bazaar would still open for a few more days.

To Yamato, this was a great opportunity for Liscia to refresh her mind and body as she rested.

“Yes! Then... Can I ask you one thing?... Yamato-sama.”

“Sure, go ahead.”

“T-tomorrow... please go shopping with me.”

“Shopping, huh?... sure, no problem.”

“Really!? Thank you very much.”

And so, during tomorrow's day off, Yamato decided to go alone with Liscia out shopping.

Chapter 43

A Fleeting Holiday

“Yo, Yamato-danna! “

The self-called debauchee, Lacq, arrived with his usual carefree greeting at the bazaar, the same as he had been doing these past few days.

And of course, this morning as well he had the same attitude as before.

“.....Hoo? “

“If you’re looking for the people of Urd, they said they were taking today as a holiday, playboy-niichan. “

But today, the shop he was looking for was nowhere to be seen. The man from the neighboring stall told him they were taking the day off.

“For real?”

At the time Lacq was feeling at loss, Yamato was enjoying the holiday at the center of the city.



Several days had passed since the group first came to trade at Orn city, but today was the first day they properly used as a shopping day.

Asked by Liscia, Yamato accompanied her as they both went shopping.

“Yamato-sama, look at this! That shop is also quite wonderful.”

“Yeah, there’s also more variety than before.”

The shopping destination was left in Liscia’s hands.

Since she had visited Orn several times in the past, there were many shops she was already familiar with.

“This necklace design is very pretty, is it not?”

“True, after all, it’s not one you could find in the village.”

“Yeah, I’ve always wanted something pretty like this...”

It was impossible to shop at the luxurious shops, so they mostly visited stalls and small shops located by the side of the main street.

They visited several shops that a girl would like, such as a handmade jewelry shop, a clothing shop, a glass goods shop, and even a general store.

Not really looking for anything in particular, Yamato only followed after her as a luggage carrier.

Still, he couldn’t help but to find the economic situation in Orn not being as bad as he believed.

There appears to be no noticeable confusion due to the influence of the imperial merchant...

According to what he heard from Isis yesterday afternoon, a merchant with the backing of the Hisan Empire had come.

The purpose was the economically weaken the city of Orn.

That imperial merchant, by having the backing of a country, could then disregard the market prices in Orn and force-sell his good without obtaining a profit.

As a result, the local stores would receive less and less customers.

Is the plan to bring down the economy still underway? Or is it that Isis is doing a decent job as the consul regent?

While shopping with Liscia, Yamato casually collected information.

He decided to speak with the old women in the market about various subjects.

Among the information he gathered, what was spoken about the most by the women was that the regent girl acting on behalf of the consul was really trying her best.

Although she lacked in experience, the citizens had a favorable view of her, often saying [She frequently comes to the downtown area, and diligently listens to our voices].

Weirdly enough, it kind of makes me feel relieved. Despite how she looks, she is in fact a girl with a strong heart...

Feeling impressed, Yamato remembered the previous interaction in front of the inn the night before. He couldn't help but to review the evaluation he gave to her at that moment.

In order to govern a city of this size, her reckless actions might be necessary.

“Ya..... mato-sama..... Yamato-sama! “

“Eh... what's wrong Liscia-san.”

Turning his gaze, he saw Liscia calling to him.

“Yamato-sama, you're making a troubled face. Today is supposed to be a day off.”

Apparently, Yamato switched to work-mode while he collected information.

Liscia then scolded him, using his very same words of [Forget about work and just relax today].

“Ah, so it was that. Sorry. Let's continue shopping.”

And so, while casually speaking, the two people finished shopping.

◇ ◇ ◇

“Ah, its Yamato-niichan! “

That moment, they heard a voice as they walked down the downtown area.

“Yamato-ani-sama! “

“Yamato-nii-sama...”

Three of the children of the village stopped them.

They were the oldest among the children, the children leader Guts, the Han clan girl Kuran, and the painter girl Chloë.

These three were almost old enough to be strolling around the city just by themselves.

By the way, the other children from the village were exploring the city and shopping in groups of several children. Their safety wasn't a big issue since they were instructed and prepared in advance.

“Ahh, not fair, only Liscia-nee-chan has bought so many things! “

“Me too, I want ani-sama to pick up something for me.”

“Me too, pick a book and drawing supplies for me... please.”

These three were the oldest children, nearly the age of Liscia. Yamato thought that this might be a good time to let them buy whatever they wanted.

“Alright, you three always have given your best. So, only for today.”

Therefore, the three of them, along with Liscia and Yamato, went to pick something they wanted.



After going around the streets, visiting several small shops, the shopping ended without issue.

It was at this time that at the edge of the square, near a street corner, the children were going to show Yamato what they bought.

“Yamato-nii-sama... thank you very much.”

“I'm glad you found exactly what you wanted.”

“Yes! “

What Chloë bought was a set of art supplies and a book for drawing that she wanted.

She was pleased by the elegance of the high-quality items she got, and she thanked Yamato, almost with teary eyes.

It was a surprise for her, being modest and introvert, to properly voice what she wanted.

Chloë was good at calculating, Yamato had asked her to be the village treasurer and assist Liscia. And of course, Yamato still felt the same way, wanting to keep counting on her.

“Ani-sama! Please, praise my flute too.”

“Yeah, it makes quite a nice sound, Kuran.”

“Thank you very much! “

The Han clan girl Kuran bought a decorated flute from a famous shop in the city.

She, the same as many of the people of the grasslands, collected musical instruments as a hobby.

A charming sound that couldn't be properly described, resounded in the plaza when she tested it.

The beautiful girl Kuran inherited the blood of the king of the grasslands. And contrary to her polite tone, she was also someone who took things at her pace and hated to lose.

Yamato valued her highly, as she could ride hundreds of kilometers per day, and wanted to keep relying on her in the future in regards of transportation power and mobility.

“Hey Yamato-niichan... praise me too...”

“Oh. Guts, you too look quite good... in that one-piece dress...”

“For real!? Then I’m glad I gathered the courage to buy it! “

Guts, the children leader, was happy with her cheeks dyed in red.

Following Liscia’s advice, she picked up a one-piece dress.

No way... was Guts actually a girl...?

In hopes that the others wouldn’t notice it, Yamato tried his best at remaining calm.

However, nothing had surprised him this much since he came to this world.

After all, the Guts who he always thought was a mischievous boy, was actually a girl. And today was the first time he had taken notice of it.

“Yamato-sama... can it be that... you thought Guts was a boy...?”

“There’s no way that can be the case, Liscia-san.”

Responding immediately, Yamato tried to denied the doubtful question of Liscia. His obvious answer: ‘There’s no way that’s the case’.

But, she was spot on.

Guts was the tallest among the children in the village, had a leading personality and was always active. Moreover, with her hair being short, Yamato never imagined her being other than a boy for this past year.

...Yeah, no matter how you look at her, she is a girl after all...

Even after checking it over and over, the figure in the dress definitely belonged to a girl.

After Liscia brushed her hair, she turned out into a pretty and slightly boyish girl.

By the way, Guts was a nickname given to her in the village.

Her actual name was ‘Galiereis’, which was somewhat difficult to pronounce. Due to that, the nickname ‘Guts’ was given and used from a very young age.

Not being able to properly tell her gender... I've still got a long way to go...

Yamato's physical abilities and sense had greatly improved since coming to this different world.

However, he had the feeling he had been conceited.

Learning from this lesson, he swore in his mind to be more critical and properly analyze everything.

"Yamato-nii-sama... Thank you so much..."

"I will continue to use this life of mine for the sake of you, ani-sama! "

"Yamato-niichan, really, thanks! "

The three children... no, the three 'girls' were happily thankful.

He had been feeling slightly guilty about having to expose these girls whom barely had become teenagers to dangerous situations during the hunting and the bandit attack.

But after seeing their smiles, his determination was renewed.

The appearance of these girls trying their best to live their lives to the full shone beautifully.

"It's nothing worth being thanked for... but, from now on, please continue to lend me your strength..."

" " " "Yes! " " " "

In this way, the rare day off ended with several discoveries and surprises.

Chapter 44

Wild Beast

The shopping adventure, where various surprises and discoveries were made, ended. And today, since the morning, the bazaar stall of Urd restarted its business.

The special stock of Urd products that were carried in the two carts had a little of its luggage left. The stay of the group in the city of Orn will end in a few more days.

After that, the goods and commodities bought in the city will be loaded into the carts and the trade will have finished. And once they returned, the Inahon harvesting season would start.

“Yo, Yamato-danna! “

Lacq arrived this morning as well, with his usual and noisy greetings.

“Liscia-chan, you look cute today. Oh!? That hair ornament looks good on you.”

“Thank you. Yamato-sama picked it up for me yesterday. However, it doesn’t matter if you compliment it or not, Lacq-san.”

“Again, huh? Don’t say that.”

The village chief granddaughter Liscia was full of smiles as she received praise for the hair ornament.

She was a teenage girl after all, so it was obvious that she would be happy to receive praise for the hair accessory she wore, despite what she said.

Seeing that scene, Yamato couldn’t help but to think, *I’ll never be able to be as talkative as Lacq.*

“Lacq-ojisan, yo! “

“Idler-ojisan, yo! “

“Oh, the shorties too, are you doing fine today? And also, I’m still an ‘onii-san’.”

As usual, this man had a mysterious aura that made him popular with the children. Even Yamato rudely thought, *maybe it’s that their mental ages are the same after all.*

“Well, anyway. I heard you were taking a day off of the store yesterday.”

“Yeah, that’s right.”

After finishing his greeting to everyone, Lacq came to Yamato’s spot.

He complained about being left in the dark, and coming yesterday morning to the bazaar only to find them missing. That he had a very lonely day after not finding the Urd street shop.

“Yesterday was our day off. We went shopping and sightseeing.”

“Oh, so it was that. How did you like the city of Orn, danna? “

“Mmm, it wasn’t bad.”

As a matter of fact, Yamato found the city to be a lively one.

The same as with all cities focused on trade, there were plentiful of good and the prices were cheap. Because this wasn’t a society based on a nobility system, the difference between the social classes wasn’t large, and the security was also decently good.

By their own hard work, craftsmen and merchants could increase their income.

For that very reason, everyone in the city spared no effort in their job, making it a lively city.

“This is also thanks to Isis-sama’s efforts.”

“So, that’s why you were asking, huh? “

“Eh... was I found out?”

The in a playful tone, Lacq answered, but it was obvious he too wanted Yamato to like the city of Orn.

He wanted to help, even if a little, her boss the regent girl Isis.

“Huh? Danna, that flower? “

“Ah, this? I received it from Isis yesterday. Orn’s ‘lucky flower’, or at least that what I heard.”

Looking at the decorative flower on his chest, Yamato explained.

It was the second of the ‘three compensations’ that he got from the girl.

It was a flower especially cultivated in the gardens of the Consul mansion, and it was said that attaching it to something would increase its luck.

In all honesty, Yamato was ashamed to be wearing a fresh flower.

However, whenever he tried to remove it, he remembered the serious expression on Isis’ face yesterday. Therefore, he decided to put up with it until it withered in a few days.

“Ah, I see. Among unmarried girls, there’s actually ‘another meaning’ when gifting that flower... Well, not matter how she looks, I guess Isis-sama is still a pure young girl...”

“Hmm? Did you say something?”

“No, it was nothing! “

Yamato asked Lacq about what he said since his words were muddled, but he just answered saying it was nothing important.

For what he could hear, there was apparently another meaning to this ‘flower of good fortune’.

However, he was not a person to believe in superstition or flower language. So, he paid it no mind.

“Well, in any case...”

“Move! “

“Oops, sorry there.”

It was then.

A new customer approached the Urd street shop.

He moved Lacq, who was standing in front of the store, aside.

“Welcome! “

“Welcome! “

Liscia and the children welcomed the new guest with a loud voice. It had been a busy day in the Urd shop since they opened in the morning.

“Oh, a Mountain Clan blacksmith...”

After giving an uninterested glance at the items in the shop, the man headed towards the blacksmith corner, at the edge of the stall.

“Hmph, a customer, huh?”

The stubborn old Gatton welcomed him with his usual unfriendly face. But the man paid no heed to that, and he browsed through the blades.

He intently observed the blades and spearheads specially made by Gatton that were arranged side by side.

A mercenary...? No, probably a Knight...

Yamato's guess was that he was a knight from some country.

He withdrew to the back so as to not get in the way of the customer service.

After all, it was bad to stare at the customers as they made their decision. Therefore, to avoid causing discomfort to the other party, Yamato disappeared from his sight and decided to quietly observe him from afar.

A long sword user, huh...?

That knight was an eye-catching man anyway.

A fearless face and a large and trained body.

His appearance, shouldering such a large sword, emanated the aura of a veteran warrior.

Pretty skilled, this person...

He was the second man in this city that had left such an impression on Yamato.

His evaluation of all the others was 'normal'.

The local mercenaries and knight guards weren't bad. Unfortunately, they were nothing special either.

The other person with 'considerable skill' was the young knight guard Lienhardt, the escort of the regent girl Isis.

His great skills had even earned him the title of 'Ten Swords', being one of the best swordsmen in this part of the continent.

If Lienhardt uses a 'proper knight's sword'...then this man's feels more like a 'bloody sword of a wild beast'...

The man browsing through and admiring Gaton's products had the smell of blood.

The same scent of the ferocious carnivorous animals living in the forest surrounding the village of Urd.

"Hey, Mountain Clan Jii-san."

"Hmph, what? "

After the man with the large sword finished browsing the items, he spoke to the shop's

owner Gaton. He seemed not to care about the obvious unfriendly tone that Gaton used.

“Jii-san, you have a nice forging arm. Become my exclusive weapon smith! “

Somehow, the conversation turned into him scouting Gaton.

[Come to my homeland and make weapons for me] that kind of talk. It appeared he too was quite stubborn, simply ordering instead of asking.

He also offered an amount of money that made even Yamato surprised.

“Hmph. Sorry but, I don’t make weapons to become tools for murder. It is my principle to only make tools to help live on.”

But the old Gaton immediately turned down the invitation.

He said that his spears, his bows and swords were meant to protect.

“Well, it can’t be helped if that’s the case.”

Yamato was surprised to see the man accept the negative answer that easily.

He was even in high alert in case something bad happened.

“But... you there, I don’t like those eyes of yours...”

It happened the moment the man opened his mouth.

A gleaming and dangerous ‘something’ shone.

The next moment, a sharp, throwing something was flying towards Yamato.

It was one of the Gaton-crafted knives that the man had in his hands a while ago.

HUH!?

Yamato avoided the knife in the nick of time.

If his reaction had been delayed for even a moment, the knife would definitely have

pierced a vital point. It was an attack that seriously tried to kill him.

The man threw the knife without any preliminary action, and Yamato soundlessly avoided it.

To any onlookers, it appeared like nothing out of the ordinary had happened.

“Ohh... you avoided it. So, you’re not just a simple merchant.”

The man with the large sword was surprised that Yamato dodged the knife. Or rather, a ferocious smile was painted in his face.

Like a knight who found a worthy rival... or it would be more proper to say, like a predator who finally found a new prey.

“These are the eyes I was born with. Yours aren’t that far behind either. And I am just a normal merchant.”

Yamato wasn’t good at socializing, and he was aware he had scary eyes.

So even if other got angry over that, there was nothing he could do about it.

The man had a face that could be considered handsome, but for Yamato, he wasn’t in a position to judge others’ eyes since that man too had eyes like a wild beast.

“Haha, interesting! I just came to Orn following some stupid order... but it seems I’ve met someone interesting! “

Satisfied, the man vigorously laughed.

“I’m Barrès, from the Hisan Empire. And you...?”

“Yamato, from the village of Urd.”

Because the other party introduced himself, Yamato did too out of courtesy.

After all, it was in his nature as a Japanese man.

“Yamato from Urd... I will remember it.”

Saying so, the wild beast wielding a large sword... the Knight of the Empire, Barrès left the bazaar.

“Empire’s Knight... Barrès, huh...?”

Yamato had a bad feeling as he stared at the back of the dangerous-smelling beast-like Barrès.

He felt that in the near future, he would cross blades against that big sword.

Chapter 45

A Hastened Plan

Around half a day had passed since the Empire's knight Barrès left.

The early autumn's sun started descending as the afternoon advanced, and the bazaar was crowded with citizens doing their shopping.

And even with the unexpected arrival of the Empire's knight earlier this morning, the sales of the stall of Urd were still going strong.

There were times when many customers came, and after those moments passed, Yamato then took the chance and went to the cart to restock the products sold.

"Liscia-san, take care of the store for a moment."

"Yes. Are you going to meet 'Isis-sama' today... Yamato-sama?"

"Yeah, today is the last day."

Isis, the representative of Orn, had promised to come pick him up today.

It was for the "three gifts" [Please, I want you to know the wonderful things in Orn!] , with those words, this was supposed to be the third and final one.

Yamato recalled yesterday's promise, [There's something I want you to come and see for yourself].

Isis just said [It is something big, so I can't bring it to you].

"Today is the 'last day' you're going to see her... right?... Yamato-sama."

"Yeah, that's what she said."

Isis, the consul regent girl, had said that the for the third gift, she would show Yamato "something wonderful from this city of Orn".

And the time for that promise would be this afternoon. Yamato felt a little refreshed that it was about to end, but also somewhat sad.

“Then... it’s okay...”

“What’s wrong Liscia-san? You seem to be in a bad mood today.”

“No, I’m fine! “



Yamato felt like every time he spoke about Isis, Liscia became a little grumpy, but he discarded that thought as his own imagination.

After all, he knew he was bad at dealing with kids and children.

The inner works of the mind of girls was an obscure field for men, so it was hard for most to understand them.

Therefore, he tried not to stay on that subject too much.

“Yamato of Urd! “

It was at that moment.

A person shouting his name appeared in the bazaar. However, that was a familiar voice, one that at least didn't belong to a dangerous person.

“I'm over here, Lienhardt.”

“There you are! “

Loudly looking for him was Orn's knight guard Lienhardt.

Yamato moved out to his sight, letting him know of his location.

Did something happen...?

Lienhardt was looking for Yamato while yelling and searching at every shop in the market. His expression was obviously different from his usual one.

“What's wrong? “

“Tch... I knew it, then, where is she!? “

Not answering Yamato's question, Lienhardt just searched Urd's shop and its surroundings while wearing a disappointed face. Judging from his actions, it was obvious that he was looking for someone.

It can't be...

From his sorrowful countenance, only one assumption came to Yamato's mind.

"It can't be, did she go missing...?"

"Yeah... on our way here... it happened the moment I took my eyes off of her and got off the carriage..."

Without even saying her name, it was obvious who both of them were referring to.

The surrounding citizens were still not aware of what the words of the knight guard Lienhardt meant, since he chose his words carefully as he regained his composure.

But with only his reply, Yamato guessed everything.

The lord whom this knight guard served was Isis, the girl acting as the consul regent.

And Yamato was supposed to meet with her soon.

Was she kidnapped? Or maybe taken captive...?

From those facts, there was only one answer Yamato could find.

Someone, somehow, kidnapped the consul regent Isis.

Chapter 46

Re-forming the group

From what the knight guard Lienhardt said, a terrible incident was made known to Yamato.

Someone, somehow, kidnapped the consul regent Isis.

“We’ll stand out here. Let’s move somewhere else.”

“Alright...”

Yamato followed after him, moving away from the center of the bazaar, in order to hear the detailed story.

Where they stopped was by a wagon parked in a street behind the Urd stall. There was nobody there, and even if someone was to come, Yamato could sense it immediately.

So, alone with the knight Lienhardt, the talk resumed.

“How long has it been since Isis disappeared? “

“Bastard! To drop the honorifics towards Isis-sama! “

“That’s not something to worry about right now.”

“...I guess you’re right.”

After confirming that they were indeed alone, Yamato questioned Lienhardt about the time when the incident happened.

After all, the on-site verification wasn’t possible at this exact moment, therefore he asked about the time it happened instead.

“Earlier... she disappeared alongside one of the maids.”

“Maybe that maid was secretly working for the other party.”

“True... that might be the case.”

Although Lienhardt regretted it, that was a situation that couldn't be prevented unless they knew they had a betrayer in their ranks.

The information that she was to come today to the bazaar might've been leaked to the other party, and they aimed at that time when she was alone with that maid.

This was most likely an already planned kidnapping, carefully laid in advance.

“Is the culprit the Hisan Empire?”

“Probably not... there's no evidence linking them to this incident, but...”

The knight Lienhardt answered, but in the latter part, his words become muddled.

It was impossible for a knight guard to go pointing fingers at possible culprits without any evidence to support those claims.

Especially this time, when the opponent was a foreign country, and even more since it was a neighboring empire with great power.

“Are they aiming to use Isis as a bargaining chip?”

“The possibility of that is high...”

It was too much of a risk to target the daughter of the consul whom was guarded by the knight guards for monetary gain.

If that was to be the case, it would be better to aim for a rich merchant's child.

And the kidnappers this time, aimed for someone who could be used as a diplomatic tool.

Therefore, chances were high that the Hisan Empire was the one behind this incident, seeing as they were already targeting the trade city of Orn.

“What are the measures taken by the knight order? “

“They have already been mobilized and are heading towards every building that has even a remote relation with the Hisan Empire across the city. But...”

“Extraterritorial rights, huh?”

“Yeah. Buildings that are considered of diplomatic importance, and merchants with a noble rank can’t be handled carelessly by the guards.”

“That, I can tell.”

The most suspicious place where Isis might be taken captive was the Hisan empire’s embassy, or a commercial building related to them.

However, some of the larger merchants had bought a noble rank with money, from their respective countries.

They could invoke the extraterritorial rights, and unless there was evidence of a crime, a forced investigation couldn’t be conducted.

As for the Orn side, they wanted to prioritize the safety of Isis, but if they gave the other party a justified reason to start a conflict, it would do more harm than good.

Even if the consul regent was kidnapped, the Orn side had the law/justice by their side, and inside their walls they had an overwhelming advantage in a long-term battle.

“Instructions had been issued to encircle all Hisan-related buildings. “

“...But that only applied if Isis is still inside the city.”

“Y-you can’t mean!? No, there’s no way that could happen...”

In response to Yamato’s hypothesis, Lienhardt raised his voice.

For him, it was impossible to pass through the inspection at the gates with Isis and bring her outside of the city walls.



“Yamato-danna! “

It was then.

From the direction behind the Urd stall, a new person appeared calling his name.

“I’m here.”

Turning around, Yamato answered.

“Danna! There you are! Something terrible happened!... Oopsy...”

Out of breath, the usually laid back Lacq came running.

After seeing that besides Yamato was the knight guard Lienhardt, he swallowed the rest of the words.

“Is it about Isis, Lacq? If so, it is okay to say it.”

“I see...”

Yamato wondered whether Lacq had something confidential to report to him.

But from the reaction he got the moment he saw the knight guard Lienhardt, he guessed it was related to Isis.

“I see... yeah, that’s right. Something really bad happened.”

From his appearance, it was obvious that Lacq had dashed all the way here.

Since he was out of breath, he spoke the words apart, in between breaths. He was not in a state to properly talk.

“First, calm down, Lacq. What’s wrong? “

“Thanks, I’ll do that, Yamato-danna...”

Yamato passed some water and had him drink it so that he could calm down.

After Lacq regained a bit of his composure, he began to report quickly.

“Danna, it’s terrible... Isis-sama was kidnapped and taken outside the city walls a little while ago.”

“How can that be!? And it happened this fast!? Did they even cross the city gates!?”

Lienhardt unconsciously raised his voice after hearing the unbelievable report from Lacq.

Luckily, the bustle of the early evening market drowned his loud voice, so nobody else heard him.

However, that truly was an unexpected development.

“It seems she was taken outside inside a cart disguised as if they were disposing of horse dung, inside a sack.”

The one who noticed it was an orphan who made a living by cleaning up horse feces around town.

The wagon wasn’t the one he was familiar with, seemingly it had broken down, so after clearing the inspection, they went out through the eastern gate.

Finding it suspicious, the orphan sneaked outside the city gates.

And although it was dangerous, if he were to get hold of some secret information, he could make a pretty penny, so it was worth the risk.

There, he saw a beautiful and well-dressed woman being transferred to a carriage waiting outside while fainted.

That carriage then drove away towards the east at a tremendous speed.

“From the story of that orphan, there’s no way ‘that woman’ is not Isis-sama.”

Lacq was lucky to hear that information and be the ‘first’ one to buy it.

By the way, he also explained that the orphan was currently being ‘secured’ at a certain place.

It was done at his discretion to avoid that information from spreading and causing unrest across the city.

“Lacq, I guess you are smart, nicely done.”

“What does that mean!? Anyway, what should we do, Yamato-danna? If we don’t hurry up...”

“Yeah, the horse-drawn carriage carrying Isis will probably cross the border.”

From the fact that the carriage headed east, it was then confirmed that the criminal was part of the empire. And if they were to leave the territory of Orn, then they could no longer interfere directly.

Also, the future of Isis, being taken to the imperial territory, was a bleak one. Being a tool in diplomacy between nations, her life would be pretty much in the hands of her captors.

“How about chasing after her with the knight order?”

“I’ll have to gather them from the Consul’s house... but by that time...”

After organizing the information, Lienhardt was at loss for words.

The young man was a knight guard, and intelligent enough to come to a conclusion from the earlier facts.

He was thinking [Even if I hurry up and prepare the knight guards, we will not be able to catch up with the high-speed carriage that is carrying Isis-sama]... knowing their own capabilities, he was convinced of such.

Even the time difference between the start of the chase from the knight guards might be carefully calculated in the empire’s plot.

“Damn it! I... have failed as a knight...”

Using vulgar words, unworthy of a knight guard, Lienhardt spat out his regrets.

He was ashamed by his blunder while guarding his escort.

He had served Isis since she was very young, and regrets that by his mistake, he might have robbed her of her future.

“Lienhardt. Are you ‘free’ to do something after this? “

Yamato asked the knight who appeared as a mere shadow of his former self.

He asked him if he was prepared to use his life and risk his position to save his lord, Isis.

“Of course! If it’s for the sake of Isis-sama, life and status mean nothing, I’m ready to throw it all out for her! “

His words were his honest feelings.

For her, to protect her, Lienhardt has ready to throw away his glorious title as knight guard, if that meant he could protect the life of the one he served.

“Alright, then help me a bit.”

“Hey... bastard, what do you...”

Ignoring the knight who was visibly confused and unable to understand, Yamato changed the direction he was facing.

“All of you ‘over there’, I guess you were properly listening, right?”

His words were directed to a place where nobody should be. But since time was of the essence, he decided to ignore them before, so that they wouldn’t have to explain everything a second time.

“I’m really sorry... Yamato-sama.”

“What! We were found out already, Nii-chan!? “

“As expected of Yamato-ani-sama! “

In response to his words, one by one, the children along with Liscia, who were supposed to be at the Urd stall, showed themselves.

“What... when did they...”

The knight guard Lienhardt did not notice, but everyone was hiding and listening to the story since a while ago.

They heard the conversation between Yamato and Lienhardt. And also, the fact that the consul regent girl Isis, was kidnapped.

“Hey scrubs, it’s time to get to work! “

Yamato issued a command to his ‘underlings’ with vulgar words. Normally that was a tone he would never even think of using.

“Aye! Boss (Aniki)! “

“What’s today’s juicy prey!? “

In response to his words, the children also replied with a bandit-like tone. Ignoring Lienhardt, who couldn’t keep up with the event happening in front of him, Yamato continued talking.

“The prey this time is... Orn’s Princess! Got it, you scrubs!? “

“” AYE! Boss (Aniki)!! “”

Everyone vigorously answered to his orders with a gleam in their eyes.

About a year ago, a mysterious armed group appeared in the northern region.

That group overwhelmingly destroyed the bandits that had their base in a windmill in an instant.

From the mouths of the few survivors, only their name was known, and it spread as synonymous of fear.

Its name was, the ‘Mountain Dog Group’.

And now it was time for them to sharpen their fangs once more, and leave the Urd region to help the girl Isis.

Chapter 47

Imperial Noble Merchant, Butan

A cobble-paved road extended from the east to the west across a vast grassland.

This road was one of the paved highways that were laid all across the continent in the era of the ancient super-empire.

A variety of products from both the east and west were carried by merchants using it, and it played an important role in logistics and cultural exchange between the cities it connected.

Right now, a 'suspicious' group was heading towards the east in such a road.

Said group had a luxurious carriage in the center, and several mounted troops were around guarding it.

This was obviously a horse-drawn carriage belonging to a noble or a rich merchant.

Although a large amount of money went into the making of such carriage, it moved at a considerable speed, disregarding its own integrity.

Surrounding it were forty mounted mercenaries hired as a measure against bandits.

After all, if bandits were to kidnap a noble or a wealthy merchant, they could claim a huge ransom.

A mounted escort of this size would cost a considerable sum of money.

However, looking at it carefully, this group had a sense of incongruity.

First and most important, there were no national flags nor family crests to be found anywhere in the carriage.

In the continent it was common sense to flaunt your status and wealth, and in case of such a luxurious carriage, reveal your identity as its owner.

Otherwise, it would be troublesome to be caught in inspections every time one was crossing a border.

Secondly, the horse-riding mercenaries' action as escorts were 'strange' on a closer look.

These riders were considerably well trained.

Their leather armor and equipment were dirty and weary, matching their 'mercenary' look.

However, they all moved as a single unit, at even distances from each other and at the exact same speed as the carriage. Therefore, it clearly showed that this mercenary group have had real military training and experience.

Despite that, there was no insignia nor flag showing their affiliation.

That suspicious armed group and the horse-drawn carriage of unknown nationality in the center of the ranks, were speedily galloping towards the east.



"Butan-sama. We'll reach the border of Orn in a little more."

Riding in parallel to the horse-drawn carriage, the escort leader reported.

They had escaped from the trade city of Orn and would soon reach the border to their destination.

"Good, good. After that, they surely will call me the Hero Viscount Merchant Butan in the Empire, what a nice ring it has. Also, I told you to call me 'Lord Butan'! "

"Understood... Butan-s... Lord Butan."

Reluctantly, the mercenary leader replied with the title the merchant noble Butan asked.

Even if this was his mission, he couldn't come to like the haughty Butan, who had bought his noble rank in the Empire using money.

“Heh... after they find I managed to bring “this girl” to the imperial capital, I’m sure my position will rise even further... uhihihi.”

On the other hand, Butan wore an evil smirk while looking at a place inside the shaking carriage.

There lied a girl knocked out by some sleeping medicine in the back seat of the carriage... Orn’s Consul Regent, Isis.

“It was costly to gather all the information needed. It was also quite the expense to hire all these mercenaries... but after delivering this girl I’ll make many times more than that. Uhihihihi...”

The merchant noble Butan was in reality, an undercover merchant working secretly for the Hisan Empire.

His original purpose was to gather information in the city of Orn, and work behind the scenes to collapse it from within according to the Empire’s plan.

However, after becoming aware of the existence of the Consul Regent girl Isis, he secretly tried to kidnap her.

And finally, that golden chance came earlier this afternoon. He succeeded in abducting Isis as she was on her way to the bazaar.

And after that, he escaped the territory of Orn and his mission was close to come to an end. He only needed to join the Empire’s army at the fort ahead, and calmly return triumphantly to the imperial capital.

He was sure that his achievement of successfully kidnaping the Consul Regen girl would impress the Emperor and he would be handsomely rewarded.

The sleeping girl was unaware that she soon would become nothing more than a mere tool for the Empire’s diplomatic ploys.

All the while, Butan would receive a promotion and wealth as a reward.

“Butan-s... Lord Butan. There’s something approaching from behind...”

“Eh? What did you say? “

The cavalry leader again came to report.

He explained that 'something' was chasing them from the west, and had only noticed due to the different elevations in the highway.

"Is it the Knight Order from Orn!? No... It is too soon, they wouldn't be able to catch up to us anyway..."

What Butan feared the most was the Orn's army coming to rescue the girl Isis.

However, a lot of money had been used, and many plans were laid in advance. He was sure that at least, the regular army and the knights wouldn't be able to sort out yet.

"It appears to be a dirty wagon... and a few horses... most likely a small bandit group."

Answering to the visibly anxious Butan, the cavalry leader reported as he looked at the distance.

Other than that, the insides of the wagon were not visible, so the other party's strength was unknown.

"It would be troublesome if they catch up to us... 'dispose of them'!"

"...Understood..."

Even if the other party were mere thieves, he had no time to spare for such trivialities, since he was in a hurry to return to the Empire.

Therefore, Butan ordered the cavalry leader to kill all those who followed them.

"Fifteen of you, come with me. We'll go 'kill' some time! Ha!"

The cavalry leader spoke to his subordinates who were running in parallel, then some of them lowered their speed and turned left and right.

Their opponent were bandits, but for all they knew, they were most likely amateurs. It was not an opponent who could match up to their mercenary group, they who used to be soldiers.

They launched a pincer attack on the other party, collapsing from the left and right. If

they were to use their bows, they could kill their opponents from a distance, without risking losing even one man.

To accurately shoot a bow on a horse, you needed a rigorous training and talent as a horse rider. It was not something mere thieves could imitate.

Their employer, Butan, knew they possessed such skills and had paid a lot of money.

“Hmph. Let’s show them how we mercenaries work to earn our pay...”

The mercenaries then prepared to attack the wagon coming from the rear.

Butan watched the scenery comfortably from a small window in the carriage.

...huh?

But, he noticed ‘something’.

Why... is that cart... so fast...?

A wagon built to carry baggage couldn’t reach a fast speed. That’s because stability and speed was mostly ignored in order to focus on it being able to carry more luggage.

The carriage which he was currently riding was a special-made vehicle.

He spared no money in order to make one fitting for himself, who was a merchant noble.

And of course, a dirty farmer wagon could never even dream to achieve a performance that would allow it to catch up to him.

Is our speed falling down?... no, that doesn’t seem to be the case...

He sent a glance at his men driving the carriage, but nothing showed that they were slowing down.

Rather, the sight of them desperately trying to make the horses go faster reflected on his eyes.

Then, is it something else? He asked himself.

The cautious Butan thought of several possibilities.

“Hmm...?... Wha-!?”

After finishing being lost in thought, Butan moved his gaze to the back again, and after looking outside the window, he unintentionally raised his voice.

The dirty wagon was unexpectedly catching up to them.

It had a tremendous momentum and in the blink of an eye, it was almost running parallel to them.

“What!?!... That leader guy... where did he go!?”

The cavalry leader and the little over a dozen subordinates he took to take care of these bandits were nowhere to be seen.

Have they betrayed me...? With that thought in his mind, his gaze moved further back.

“How can that be!?!... they were annihilated...”

Butan yells in a rough voice as his eyes look back.

All the mercenary riders were lying all across the meadow by the road, clearly annihilated.

Some had their head blown away, some had clearly and lethal arrow wounds.

From that scene, it was obvious that they were on the receiving end of a one-sided slaughter, even from outside their bow range.

Inch by inch, the dirty wagon was getting closer and closer.

“If you value your life. Stop!

The other party then advised Butan to surrender, as they approached the carriage.

[There’s no point in useless fight. Just stop the carriage and surrender all your baggage. If you do that, then we’ll spare your life] That was the command given by the bandits.

“Hmph! Do you even know who you’re speaking to!? I am the great Viscount Butan, a famous merchant from the Empire! “

“Sorry. I’m a little illiterate, so forgive me for not knowing who you are.”

“What! Kill them! Kill them all right now! “

Provoked by the words of the man in the wagon, Butan ordered the rest of the mercenaries in an angry tone.

To kill all the bandits in the cart.

They were unknown and eerie opponents, but they were just a few archers and some horse riders

And he still had close to thirty mercenaries remaining.

Butan believed he could overwhelm them with this difference in numbers.



“Negotiations have broken down. Let’s do it... Mountain Dog Group.”

“” AYE! Boss (Aniki)! “”

The man in the dirty wagon revealed their identity as “Mountain Dog Group”.

And thus, the leader of the Mountain Dog Group... Yamato, ordered the children of Urd to attack the imperial carriage and the mercenaries.

Chapter 48

Yamato-style – Battle Wagon

After departing from the city of Orn, they finally caught up with the horse-drawn carriage that had abducted the girl Isis.

“If you value your life. Stop!”

After disposing of the advance party, Yamato made the recommendation for them to surrender, in a mannerly way.

His main purpose was to rescue Isis, not some indiscriminate slaughter. So, he wanted to avoid futile fighting if possible.

“Do you even know who you’re speaking to!? I am the great Viscount Butan, a famous merchant from the Empire! Kill them! Kill them all right now! “

Unfortunately, the other party’s leader, Butan, declared so.

Sticking out his plump body from the horse-drawn carriage’s window, he ordered the remaining mounted mercenaries to kill Yamato’s group.

“Negotiations have broken down. Let’s do it... Mountain Dog Group.”

“” AYE! Boss (Aniki)! “”

Saying so, he instructed Urd’s children that were riding in the wagon, along with the Han clan children that rode their horses parallel to it. Therefore, the earlier agreed-upon ‘annihilation strategy’ began.

“Isis is in the carriage. First, let’s take care of the cavalry escorts.”

“Understood. Yamato-sama.”

The girl, Liscia next to him in the coach seat replied in a loud voice, and so they began executing the plan.

They weren't worried about the other party hearing their conversation in the wagon, since it was drowned by the intense galloping sounds.

In addition, the same as they did last time, they were hiding the lower part of their faces with a cloth in order to hide their identities.

Being disguised as such, nobody would expect them to be simple villagers, even less from Urd.

"Slow down, take some distance from the carriage."

"Got it, Yamato-ani-sama! "

While watching the enemy formation, Yamato gave those instructions.

With the masterful skills of the boy from the Han clan driving the wagon, it slowed down and took a bit of distance from their opponents.

They became familiar with horses from a young age, and were able to handle horses almost as if they were their own hands and feet; those were the people of the grasslands.

Theirs was a four-wheeled, two-horse simple wagon; the other party on the other hand had a luxurious four-wheeled, four-horse carriage.

At first glance, one would think their opponent has the upper hand, but these two horses were the famous Han horses, notable across the continent for their outstanding power.

Their speed and endurance were so overwhelming that it almost seemed impossible to believe they had caught up to the kidnappers at this place, coming all the way from Orn.

"Alright, begin combat."

"Roger that! Yamato-niichan! "

First of all, they took some distance in order not to involve Isis, who was captive in the opponent's carriage, in the fight.

They first will be cleaning up the surrounding mounted mercenaries, before rescuing her.

“Yamato-danna. They’re a famous mercenary group in this part of the continent. Be careful! “

“Yeah. You go back and hide, Lacq.”

Lacq warned them from the back, in the cargo part of the wagon.

He was brought by Yamato as a guide.

However, he shamelessly proclaimed himself as ‘useless in a fight’, so he wasn’t counted as a fighting force.

And according to him, those belonged to a dangerous mercenary group that would undertake any request if the money was right.

Proof of that was the fact that earlier, around a dozen of horse riders attacked them without even saying a word.

“Yamato-niichan! They’re circling us from behind! “

A boy keeping watch at the rear side, came to report.

Apparently, twenty riders from the mercenary group circled them and were coming straight at them from the highway.

The remaining ten enemy riders were pursuing the Han clan mounted archers that were spread in the grassland as a decoy.

“All members, ‘Volley Formation’! “

“Roger that! “

In response to the village chief granddaughter, the children in the rear set up their crossbow.

This time, there were not many children brought from the city of Orn. Therefore, it was necessary to draw the other party closer and then fire.

“Da-danna! The enemies are shooting! “

A sorrowful cry from Lacq, who was riding in the hooded part of the cart resounded.

Because they were waiting for the enemy to draw closer, the mercenaries fired a preemptive strike with their own bows.

“It’s okay.”

“B-but...”

It was a natural reaction for Lacq to raise his voice in fear.

Although they were covered by a cloth made apparently to guard from the rain, it was obvious to him that it was quite thin.

After being penetrated by the arrows, he feared they would end up as human hedgehogs.

“I trust this design and Gatou-jii-san who made it.”

As he protected the children that were concentrating on their shooting, Yamato tried to calm Lacq and the children a little.

He wanted them to believe in him, who made the design to remodel the wagon, and Gatou, who made it a reality.

“Ohh!?”

Then, the sound of the arrows from the mercenaries hitting the hood covering them sounded. The sound of the rain of arrows pouring down in rapid succession was heard.

And yet, everyone remained unscathed.

“Wow!! It’s really amazing! “

Lacq leaked his impressed voice at the fact that no arrow passed through the thin top hood of the wagon.

Yamato had already explained it to him, but he was surprised after actually seeing it in action.

“Urd-type Layered Defensive Membrane”

An ordinary bow and arrow weren't enough to pierce the new defensive cloth, devised in the spring of this year and made by Gatou by woven layers of thinly made metal and cured leather.

Of course, along with the wagon, the two horses pulling it also had their body covered by the same defensive fabric.

“H-how can that be!? “

“The arrows bounced...”

On the other hand, the mercenaries had their mouths agape in surprise at the unexpected sight.

They never expected a farmer's wagon to defend against their bows and arrows.

“Now! Crossbow squad, FIRE! “

Not missing the chance when the enemies were confused, the voice of Liscia echoed in the cargo platform.

In response to that, the crossbow squad fired through small openings made in the hood covering the wagon, aiming at the enemies.

They targeted the vital points of the mercenaries carelessly approaching. The Urd crossbows, able to penetrate even metal plates, easily take the enemies' lives in a single blow.

“Second row, FIRE! “

The mercenaries tried to counterattack, but their attacks weren't effective while they volley from inside the crude wagon was relentlessly reducing their numbers.

The mercenaries were stunned in confusion at that incredible sight.

Compared to the instantaneous reaction of wild animals due to instinct, there was a time lag in the reactions of humans.

And Liscia, being an excellent hunter and a good commander, did not miss that chance the opponent gave.

“Retreat! Run away! “

After a few volleys from the crossbow squad, the mounted mercenary group was on the verge of collapse.

The few surviving riders ran away and scattered at the desperate command of retreat.

“Wait! Bastards! Where do you think you’re going!? You need to protect me! “

“Shut your mouth! We already did enough for you! “

“Run away! “

At the carriage, Butan was yelling at the escaping guards.

Fleeing from an enemy was a clear violation of a contract for mercenaries, but everyone present valued their life higher than gold.

And they felt no obligation to toss their lives for a haughty merchant like Butan.

The remaining mercenaries chasing the Han clan cavalry archers, barely keeping up, also retreated.

“W-what... how could...”

Confirming the state of the losing battle from the carriage window, Butan became speechless.

What remained of his fighting force was that one single imperial carriage. And on the other hand, his opponents were completely unharmed.

The overwhelming difference in numbers that he had a short while ago, had completely reversed.

After being made aware of that unbelievable reality, Butan’s plump face was dyed with despair.

“Lien. Now! “

Taking the chance, Yamato shouted a command.

The person receiving said instruction was the knight Lienhardt, who had been secretly approaching from the grasslands.

“Don’t call me as if we’re friends! “

Yelling in response, the ambushing Lienhardt showed up.

Jumping out from the grassland, it charged at the carriage splendidly.

His target was the empire’s coachman. After jumping towards the moving carriage from atop of his horse, he took the reins away from the coachman.

His skills were befitting of his title as one of the best knights in this part of the continent, the <Ten Swords> Lienhardt.

But right now, in order to save his lord, he wasn’t that person, he currently was the humble ‘Swordsman Lien’, a member of the Mountain Dog Group.

“Alright... Hoo Hoo...”

With the reins in his hands, Lienhardt slowly stopped the imperial horse-drawn carriage.

The surviving mercenaries were dispersed, and no suspicious enemy soldier could be seen around.

There was no longer anyone who could defend the imperial carriage.

The only ones remaining should be the merchant noble Butan, and the unconscious Isis, inside the carriage.

“Don’t let your guard down just yet.”

Stopping their wagon, Yamato got down from it along with Liscia.

And just to be sure, he directed the Han clan mounted archery unit to patrol the

surroundings.

“Don’t go having some weird ideas. Just hand over all your cargo. If you do so, we’ll spare your life.”

As the leader of the bandits, Yamato then pressured the merchant.

Since the lower half of their faces was covered with a cloth, Butan wasn’t aware of the bandits’ true identity.

For their show to succeed, it was necessary to attack the carriage and make the other party think that ‘they just took away the beautiful girl, along with the cargo’.

“Surrender, you say... uhihihihi...”

From the stopped carriage, Butan opened the door and came down from the carriage.

Despite the bleak situation, his vulgar smile remained. It was a weird expression, almost as if he was convinced of his own victory.

“Surrender. Do so and I’ll spare your life. This is your last chance.”

Yamato gave one final warning.

“Uhihihi... it seems like he finally woke up... with this, it’s my victory...”

However, the other party simply grinned forwards while muttering something in a low voice.

To Yamato, he was most likely an amateur at fighting, and therefore, he couldn’t have an impact enough to turn the tables at this point in time.

Yamato wondered whether he had gone crazy since he was pretty much defeated.

“Then, I’ll have to take that li-...”

It was at that moment, when he tried to attack Butan.

“Hoo!? “

Feeling an incredible bloodlust, Yamato couldn't finish his sentence.

“Everyone, scatter now! “

Yamato loudly instructed the children of the crossbow squad, who had surrounded the carriage. He was certain that they needed to evacuate this place as soon as possible.

“Eh!? “

“What's wrong anik-!? Wooah?! “

The children barely managed to move back.

However, they still got blown away by the incredible and unexpected sword pressure.

Thanks to Yamato's teachings, they were able to land in a way to reduce the damage, therefore, everyone was safe.

However, a corner of the carriage was completely destroyed by a 'blow'.

What is... with such a destructive power...?

A part of the cobble-paved road, alongside the lush meadow was gouged by the recent shockwave.

Yamato was stunned at such a sight.

“Huh, it seems like something interesting happened while I was asleep...”

The culprit behind the destruction then slowly made his appearance.

The one behind that shockwave, the one who blew away the crossbow squad was a single swordsman that rode the carriage.

Thick arms, a large and broad back, and also a huge sword.

A slash...? Was that a shockwave from swinging that sword too fast...?

Yamato guessed that the previous shockwave was result from the swinging of such a

large sword, belonging to the person descending from the wagon.

His mind refused to believe such a thing could be possible, but that fact was in front of him.

An attack from such a sword had caused the previous shockwave.

“Ohh...? If I’m not mistaken, you are...”

After looking at Yamato and examining his appearance, the swordsman seemed happy, as a ferocious smile was plastered on his face.

Like a knight who found a worthy rival...

Or it would be more proper to say, like a predator who found a new prey.

As expected, he too was riding this carriage...

The bad feeling he had this morning at the bazaar finally came true.

“Yamato... I’m glad to see you came.”

Cold sweat flowed on Yamato’s back as he saw the figure of the Empire’s knight Barrès, happily grinning.

Chapter 49

The Great Storm Sword

With the appearance of the great-sword user from the empire, Barrès, the atmosphere in the place completely changed.

In terms of fighting force, the opponent was the single Barrès.

After surrounding him, the advantage should overwhelmingly be in favor of the crossbow and mouter archery squads.

But, everyone from Urd felt oppressed by the powerful and dangerous beast-like aura released by him.

“Yamato from Urd... I’m glad to see you came.”

Despite being completely surrounded, the empire’s swordsman floated a fearless smile.

“I’m indeed Yamato... But I’m just the leader of the Mountain Dog bandit group.”

“Eh?... Either way is fine. I’m glad to see you again, Yamato.”

“It’s the first time I see you.”

It appeared like his identity was pretty much exposed, but he continued to deny it.

Although Yamato hid his lower half of the face with a cloth, there were ways to identify people by their physique and movements, and that was quite hard to properly conceal.

While conversing, Yamato was careful not to enter the other party’s sword range.

His whole person was concentrated on every little move Barrès made, staying in high alert.

“Nii-chan! I’ll help you! “

It was then.

A young boy from Urd secretly moved behind Barrès and fired the crossbow.

The boy arbitrarily tried to help the unmoving Yamato, who was confronting the big swordsman, by launching a surprise attack. A splendid sneak attack, practiced several times by hunting in the forest.

“Eh? What’s this? “

But, without even sparing a glance, Barrès repelled that arrow.

Like a gale of wind, a whirlwind defended at the same time as the arrow was shot.

Yamato was amazed at the beastly reflexes that shot down an arrow traveling at hundreds of kilometers shot from a crossbow.

“Don’t get in my way! Insolent kid! “

Barrès was angered that someone disrupted his confrontation with Yamato.

With the big sword on his hand, he swung it towards the boy at his back. And once again, a whirlwind wrapped around Barrès.

“Huh? Run away now! “

“Eh...? “

A shockwave was emitted from Barrès great sword.

An invisible deadly blade tore through the wind and attacked the boy who was a moment too late to react to Yamato’s voice.

“That was close! “

But the boy was saved by a hair’s breadth.

“Lacq! “

Lacq suddenly jumped seemingly out of nowhere and saved the boy.

With cat-like reflexes and agility he hadn't displayed before.

"Danna! Please be careful. That is the magic sword 'Mad Storm'!"

"Magic sword...?"

'Magic Sword' was a term Yamato was familiar with.

It had come out several times in stories Gatou, the old Mountain Clan blacksmith, had told him back in the village.

They were said to be heirlooms left behind from the era of the 'ancient super empire', when civilization was more advanced than it was now.

Swords, spears, shields, armors... they were treasures imbued with mysterious power. They granted power in proportion to the ability of their wielder.

They were treasures that couldn't be reproduced in the present age, goods that not even royalty could easily obtain. And it was said that those in possession of a magic weapon numbered less than twenty across the vast continent.

And one of those magic weapons was being held right in front of Yamato, by Barrès.

[Mad Storm renders attacks with arrows useless, and it counterattacks them with an invisible blade of wind] so Lacq advised.

"The ability of this sword should be secret information. And also, that thing you did before, you're an interesting guy."

"I'm just a simple guy who likes to fool around."

Lacq, with his self-proclaimed 'lack in battle skills', left Barrès' field of view while carrying the boy he rescued.

After all, he didn't know how dangerous could it be just by being in his sight.

Just that overwhelming was the power of Mad Storm.

"Buhihihi... Barrès here is a strong enough man to be considered in the top three of our empire! And what's more, he's also a magic sword wielder."

The merchant noble, Butan vulgarly laughed at the appearance of Barrès.

Barrès was a strong knight, enough to be said he was a match for a thousand men. In his expression, Butan showed he was convinced of his victory, since his reliable escort had finally woken up.

And with said Barrès in front of him, Yamato was unable to move.



“Aniki, trouble’s coming! “

It was then.

Another serious report came from a boy from the Han clan who was ordered to scout the surroundings.

“Some knights are approaching from the east! “

Some knights were marching straight to this place.

A number so large that it couldn’t even compare to the mercenary riders from before. And as those fully armed knights approached, a risen ‘crimson flag’ could be seen.

“You guys are really out of luck! The imperial knights will come soon! Buuihihihihih...”

In this part of the continent, only the Hisan Empire had a crimson-colored flag.

With the approach of reinforcements, Butan was further convinced of his victory, loudly laughing in a nasty tone.

However, considering the size of the cloud of dust, Butan wasn’t being conceited.

Even at a simple glance, the imperial knights numbered easily over a hundred riders.

And although Yamato’s group was still practically unharmed, there was too much of a difference in the size of both groups.

In addition, there was still no reaction from the large-sword wielder in front of Yamato, so he couldn’t move carelessly.

“Lien, retreat. Take care of the children.”

Calmly analyzing the situation, those were the instructions Yamato gave to the knight Lienhardt. To leave him alone and withdraw to the city of Orn in the wagon.

“What!? But ‘she’ is still inside that carriage...”

“It’s fine. I’ll rescue her for sure. But in return, take care of the children.”

“Tsk... If she even has a single scar, I’ll never forgive you.”

“Yeah, leave it to me.”

In accordance with his orders, Lienhardt withdrew with the children.

Him being an intelligent knight, clearly understood the situation they were in.

The imperial army of hundreds of horses was approaching and will arrive soon.

And even if the wagon had excellent horses pulling it, they will catch up to them if they don’t hurry. And if it comes to that, they would surely be wiped out.

“Yamato-sama! Be safe...”

“Nii-chan! You need to come back, for sure! “

As the wagon departed, the worried voices of Liscia and the children could be heard.

They knew that if there were to remain there with Yamato, they would be nothing more than a drag.

Even though it was a bitter choice, they withdrew before they risked being surrounded by the imperial army.

They believed that if Yamato was alone, he would be able to save the girl Isis.

“All the nuisances have left now, Yamato.”

“Yeah. Sorry to keep you waiting, Barrès.”

After confirming that the wagon had left, Barrès gripped his sword again.

His tone implied that nobody would bother them in their fight.

Well then...

Regaining his composure, Yamato checked his current situation.

He was currently facing against Barrès in the middle of the highway.

A little away from him was the merchant noble Butan, floating an unsightly smile. And the consul regent girl, Isis, was unconscious inside the carriage.

And it was just a matter of time before the imperial army, raising a cloud of dust from the east, reached this place.

Before they arrived, Yamato had to defeat the swordsman in front of him, save Isis and retreat to the city of Orn.

Pretty difficult... quite the desperate situation I'm in. Feels like I got my back against a wall...

It was a tough situation with only a slight chance of success.

However, Yamato wondered why it was that he didn't feel uneasy.

He felt a sense of elation in the back of his mind, one he couldn't properly explain.

"Well then... let's begin, Yamato."

Walking towards each other, they began to shrink the distance.

"Right..."

In a small mutter to get himself pumped up, Yamato dove into the range of that large sword.

It was an extremely fierce battle.

“Doryaaaaa!! “

“Tsk! “

A flurry of attacks from Barrès rained down upon Yamato, one after the other.

Barrès lightly wielded that big sword like if it were a small chunk of iron, not giving Yamato even a chance to counterattack.

“Then...”

“Damn! Another strange skill! “

However, with his strengthened physical ability he forcefully dodged and moved to a blind spot of Barrès, aiming his knife at a vital point.

Because neither of them was clad in metal armor, it was more advantageous to aim at the vital spots.

Yamato fought placing emphasis on speed, and making use of the two medium-sized knives he was accustomed to.

“Doryaaaaa!! “

“Tch, with a beast-like reflexes...”

Just as he was about to receive the knife attack from Yamato, Barrès swung the sword towards him, forcing Yamato to back off after kicking off the ground.

After parrying the sword, he twisted his body to avoid it completely. It was a combination of aikido and jiu-jitsu.

“Ha! Interesting! Keep it like this, Yamato! “

“There’s nothing interesting in this.”

“I see your jokes are also first-class, Yamato! “

The battle between Yamato and Barrès developed rapidly.

Initially, Yamato predicted that Barrès, using a large sword, was a simple power-type swordsman. But in addition to that, he had the brains to make use of the edge given by the magic sword Mad Storm.

While it's quite reckless... he indeed has an amazing sword skill...

And also, Barrès had the brutality of a wild beast, and had built tremendous technique with the sword.

Yamato thought that it was likely that he had been smeared in blood since a young age.

Besides, he had been gifted with a big frame and a vast amount of physical strength.

This is a real combat-oriented sword skill that doesn't pale in comparison to Japan's master swordsmen of old.

Like the people of Urd, the physical ability of Barrès was far beyond that of a normal human. While fighting, Yamato corrected the preconceptions he had.

For the moment, he had been able to hold up.

His physical abilities and reflexes had significantly improved in this different world.

In addition, there were the self-defense techniques drilled into him from an early age by his self-proclaimed adventurer parents.

On the other side, he lacked offensive techniques, like the almost invisible sword technique from Barrès thanks to his beast-like reflexes.

“You... are truly amazing, Yamato.”

“Tsk!?”

A smile floated on Barrès as he held his sword.

He obviously wasn't making fun of Yamato. It was obvious that he was delighted from

the bottom of his heart.

“Even in the empire is hard to find a great swordsman like you, this is great...”

“I’m not a swordsman.”

“And your jokes are first-class too!! “

After raising a beast-like roar, Barrès began swinging the sword even faster.

Yamato felt like even by being grazed by it, it would become a deadly wound, his sense went on full alert.

Barrès... wasn't using his full strength...

He was once again surprised by the empire’s swordsman Barrès.

While Yamato was in Urd village, he knew very well of his own combat abilities.

And so far, he had only exchanged blows against wild animals and amateur bandits.

This was his first time experiencing a full-fledged one on one combat against a person.

The only fierce battle he had thus far was against the Spiritual Beast at the bottom of the rock salt mine, the one resembling a saber tiger.

The strength of Barrès was comparable to that of said Spiritual Beast... no, it could be said that Barrès was a more dangerous existence since he also used outstanding sword skills.

The crossbow was useless since the arrows were stopped by the mysterious power of the magic sword Mad Storm. It was a troublesome opponent whom he could only face in close combat.

“Hahahaha! That’s right! Keep it like this, Yamato! “

“Tsk! “

Barrès further raised the speed of his strikes. The more excited he got against an opponent, the more he demonstrated his power.

Little by little, that big sword was cornering Yamato.

Should I use my trump card?... no, It's still too early.

While fighting against Barrès, Yamato waited. He waited for the right moment to turn the tables.

However, until then, time was still needed.

It was a gamble of whether his knives would last until then.



“Hey! Look here!! “

It was then.

A tainted and vulgar voice, not suited for the fierce battle that was unfolding, echoed in the highway.

It belonged to the merchant noble Butan who was in the carriage.

“You lowly thief! You aim was probably this little girl! “

“.....”

Yamato instinctively took some distance from Barrès after hearing those words.

“If you value the life of this lass, don’t move! Or else! “

After placing a knife on the throat of the girl, Butan commanded Yamato in order to restrain him. He ordered him to throw away his weapons if he didn’t want Butan to kill the girl.

“Tch...”

After stopping his movements, Yamato raised both of his arms and dropped both knives on the ground.

“Yamato-sama... I’m truly sorry...”

That girl cried in a sorrowful voice.

The consul regent girl, Isis was taken hostage right in front of him.

Chapter 50

The Crimson Knight

The merchant noble Butan had taken Isis hostage.

“Yamato-sama... I’m truly sorry...”

Isis said in a sorrowful voice.

When she finally regained consciousness within the carriage, she was suddenly restrained by Butan and taken hostage.

And after finally grasping the situation she was in, she was aware of the fact that Yamato was being threatened because of her.

“Hey, Butan! Don’t get in the way of my fun! “

“Hmph. His highness Loki should have ordered you to protect me until I’m back at the empire. Sir Barrès! “

“Tch... so that’s how it is.”

Butan ordered the frowning Barrès.

It was possible to tell how both served the same empire, but their statuses were obviously different.

Barrès was furious at the despicable act by Butan of taking a weak girl hostage in front of his opponent.

However, after that person uttered the name of <His Highness Loki> , unwillingly followed his orders.

A man whom the brave Barrès had swear absolute loyalty, that was Loki. From that fact alone, Yamato guessed he must be quite the person.

“Sir Barrès, slay that lowly thief right this moment... Buhihihi.”

Butan instructed the large sword user to slay Yamato, who had dropped both of his knives.

Tch... this isn't looking so great...

Butan threatened to slit the throat of Isis, while hiding behind her back.

And at their current distance, it was difficult to snipe Butan using the hidden crossbow Yamato had equipped under his cloak.

“Yamato-sama! Don't worry about me and escape.”

The hostage Isis then raised an even more grieving cry. She asked him to disregard her and escape by himself.

“That's an unreasonable request.”

“Eh...”

“I'll rescue you for sure... that's what I promised to everyone.”

“Yamato-sama...”

To his unexpected words, Isis was at loss for words. To her it was as if Yamato wasn't worried about what could happen to him in this dire situation.

“Save her!? B-bastard! Do you not care for the life of this girl!?”

At Yamato's reply to Isis, Butan's face turned red in anger.

Trembling in rage, it appeared as if at any moment the blade would cut the defenseless throat of Isis.

Damn... It seems like I have no other choice than to use my trump card...

So, he decided after seeing the predicament Isis was in. He would use his trump card despite the presence of the empire's swordsman Barrès.

If he were to use it on Butan here, Yamato most likely wouldn't be able to use the same trick against Barrès.

But in order to save Isis from this predicament, he couldn't help but to do it.



"Huh!?"

It was then.

'Something' was running towards them almost like a gale.

Jumping over a meadow hill, someone riding a horse was approaching.

"Lord Butan, that far is enough."

A beautiful and fearless voice echoed through the grassy meadow.

The owner of that voice was a knight clad in a crimson armor.

It can't be... for the knights of the empire to arrive so fast...

Yamato felt startled.

The imperial army, which was advancing from the east, should still be at a considerable distance away.

Nevertheless, this crimson knight came rushing with a speed that surpassed Yamato's predictions.

Those riding skills... and what's more, this knight seems quite capable...

The crimson knight rode on a horse of splendid fur.

Maybe that horse was similar to the Han horses that could run for hundreds of kilometers a day. That's why he had arrived sooner than Yamato expected.

In addition to that, one could easily see from his posture and the aura surrounding him that this knight was very skilled.

Yamato though he most likely was as skilled as the bid sword user Barrès... or maybe even more.

“Y-your Majesty Loki... w-why are you in such a remote place...?”

Butan couldn't find the words to express himself with the appearance of the crimson knight.

His earlier sense of elation was now nowhere to be seen.

On the contrary, his face paled as he looked like he would drop on his knees at any moment.

‘Your Majesty Loki’...that means he’s of imperial descent...

In this case, honorifics like ‘Highness’ were only used for <Those directly related to the emperor> .

In other words, it was easy to infer that this knight called Loki was a high-ranking person who inherited the blood of the emperor.

It was unusual for a person like that to just rush past his guards and come to Butan all by himself.

“Sir Butan, I have some urgent business with the likes of you. We’ve found you’ve committed several felonies such as stealing from the imperial coffers and forgery of imperial documents. So, in order to enforce the ‘authority to discipline nobility’, I’ve came all the way here.”

“T-that is... that is not true...”

Loki then stopped him from trying to spew excuses.

Taking out some documents, he pointed at the evidence of the crimes committed by this aristocrat merchant, causing Butan to almost fall on his butt.

He called it ‘Infiltrating the city of Orn’ but in truth, he had been working behind the scenes to enrich himself at the expenses of the empire.

And this time too, he had ‘advised’ to ‘kidnap the consul regent girl’, which was a crime

that would leave a terrible stain in the imperial foreign policy.

“Hmph, and I thought that was a strange order. Truly a pig bastard.”

The big sword user Barrès stared down at Butan with a glare of a demon.

According to the evidence, it was a forged document from Butan the one that summoned Barrès to the city of Orn.

“Butan, surrender yourself. That was the order I had to deliver you from father... from the Emperor.”

“No... no... that can’t be...”

From their exchange, Yamato now knew for sure that this young man named Loki was actually a child from the Emperor of the Hisan Empire.

Unsheathing his sword from his waist, Loki pointed it towards the frightened Butan.

It obviously meant that if he refused to surrender, his head would be separated from his neck in but a moment.

This was the special right called ‘authority to discipline nobility’.

“Orn... If I deliver Orn... then my sins will... if only this girl disappeared...”

The cornered Butan then started to speak nonsense, and a small grin appeared on his face.

He directed his blood-shot eyes towards the girl he had taken hostage and the blade he had on her neck.

“Have you lost your mind? Butan! “

“Damn! “

Loki shouted at Butan, whom aimed at the defenseless girl.

One more crime wasn’t the answer.

Barrès who kept Yamato in place with his sword clicked his tongue and turned his attention away.

Alright... now is the time!

Aiming at the perfect timing, Yamato took action.

He took the small whistle that hung from his neck and blew on it.

A low sound, one that couldn't be heard by a person echoed across the meadow.

"Yamato, what did you...!?"

The response from Barrès who had turned from facing Yamato was delayed.

He couldn't react because he was a moment too late since he had turned his attention to the deranged Butan.

"Regal Wind!"

Running towards the direction of Butan and Isis, Yamato called that name. The name of the 'trump card' he had kept hidden so far.

In response to the whistle, a huge, jet-black shadow flew in.

"Hiiiiiiii!?"

Trying to escape being trampled by the huge horse, Butan screamed and pulled back.

"A Han horse!?... This one is one hell of an amazing horse!"

The swordsman Barrès smiled at the appearance of the Ouba, Regal Wind. He was impressed to see such an untarnished horse, one like he had never seen before.

"Let's go, Regal Wind!"

Just as Barrès swung at him, Yamato jumped on Regal Wind.

He was a prideful horse, the king horse, and as such, he disliked being saddled, but its back was truly wide.

“Isis! “

At top speed, Yamato rushed towards Isis who was free.

She was in a position where the two empire’s knights would not reach in time, it was the perfect timing. After grabbing her, he then would retreat in the direction of the city of Orn.

“Buhyahya! I won’t let you, that girl will...! “

“Kyaaa!?”

The deranged Butan with a blade in hand then tried to pierce Isis.

If he were to be brought back to the empire as it was, his life and position as an aristocrat merchant would all be gone. Yamato was ready to dirty his hands to prevent that.

“Isis, bent down! “

After he yelled, he pulled the trigger on the Urd-type crossbow he had equipped.()

The bolt fired from the strengthened crossbow flew and impacted into a vital point of Butan.

“Isis! “

“Yamato-sama! “

Embracing the freed Isis and keeping the momentum, she was pulled up and rode on Regal Wind too.

Good... seems like the ‘trump card’ properly worked...

The distance between the two knights of the empire was enough. Yamato rode at full speed as he retreated towards the city of Orn.

Although two persons were riding it, there was not a change they could catch up to Regal Wind.

“My name is Loki Hisan. What is yours?”

The knight wearing crimson armor... the Emperor's child Loki stated his name with a serious look on his face.

Despite being noble in appearance, he also had an unparalleled aura.

“I'm Yamato. A simple thug.”

“Yamato, huh? I'll remember it.”

“Hey, Loki! That guy is my prey. Don't go stealing him! “

“There are some things I can't back down from, like back in the academy, Barrès.”

The two knights of the Empire starting to argue with each other, almost as if trying to decide who would be the one who would defeat Yamato first.

They both were owners of incredible skill.

One was an opponent who had tried to take his life before, but they both had some mysterious charm.

“Sorry, but I'm just a normal person. There's no way I'll meet you again... Ha!”

After replying, he commanded Regal Wind and retreated.

If he delayed his retreat, several hundreds of knights would arrive from the east.

“Yamato, until we meet again...”

The rescuing of Isis succeeded safely.

But on his back, Yamato could hear the imperial prince's dangerous reunion promise.

Chapter 51

Afterwards Developments

After rescuing the girl Isis, Yamato went back to the city of Orn.

The fact that she was kidnapped was strictly confidential and unknown to the general public.

In order to avoid information leakage, Yamato entered through the city gate used exclusively by the Knight Order, and went directly to the old consul mansion to deliver Isis to the Guard Knight Lienhardt.

“Isis-sama! ”

“It’s great to see you safe, Isis-sama! ”

Some plump government officials welcomed Isis.

For them whom had served the consul for many years, Isis was almost as their own child.

Isis was kidnapped by the aristocrat merchant Butan with the use of sleeping pills, but there seemed to be no after effects and she was safe.

“So, you are the ‘Wanderer’ Yamato-sama. I truly offer you my thanks for what you have done this time! ”

“Did you break through the imperial knights and saved Isis-ojousama with just a single horse!? Truly an incredible warrior! ”

The heavyweight officials of Orn came closer to Yamato, giving him the greatest praise as a hero.

By the way, earlier Yamato had changed his identity to a “wanderer” and hid his face with a cloth.

“I just happened to be passing by and helped. It’s not something worthy of making a big deal.”

His words were a lie though. It was his personal intention to help Isis.

It was when she came to see him that Isis was aimed for and ended up being kidnapped.

Despite the fact the Empire had crept into the city, she still decided to show the “third gift” that Yamato had talked about.

That’s why Yamato felt a sense of responsibility to save Isis.

(The disguise was perfect... I guess I got nothing to worry about them retaliating...)

Their identities were unknown to the imperial army.

And the only two who knew of him, Barrès and Loki, would most likely not take revenge against Orn and settle with killing Butan.

(Rather... it feels like I was used to ‘dispose of Butan’...or at least that how it feels.)

Although he had become a criminal, the financial strength and authority of the aristocrat merchant Butan was considerable.

Many merchants in this continent dedicated part of their work to the loaning business, and since they also dealt with the royal families, their voices were quite strong.

Even kings and emperors couldn’t handle a situation like this previous one carelessly.

Perhaps not only Yamato took advantage of the chaotic situation, but so did the Empire.

They turned a blind eye on him helping Isis in exchange for getting rid of Butan.

(Imperia Prince Loki, huh?)

He was a dangerous young man.

A prince from the Hisan Empire, which controlled the eastern part of the continent and was advancing its territorial expansion.

Not only was he an incredible swordsman, but also a quick and sharp person whom many may consider a schemer.

“Yamato-dono! If it’s alright with you, would you celebrate with us in the Consul’s pavilion!?”

“It’d be great to hear of your past heroic deeds.”

The Orn officials invited Yamato to hold a celebration with the excuse of having Isis rescued safely. Him being the main figure, the hero who bravely rescued the young girl.

“I’m sorry, there’s still some thing I need to take care of.”

Perhaps they truly meant to thank him for saving Isis.

However, it was a fierce battle the rescue of Isis, and he gave the excuse of having several wounds in his body left because of it.

In truth there were no injuries on him, but it was true that the fight against the Empire’s knight Barrès was a fierce one.

“Well then, if you’ll excuse me.”

And so, he decided to return to the inn where the village chief granddaughter and the children were waiting, to rest for a night.



Dawn of the day following the incident came.

A messenger arrived at the city of Orn coming in the name of the “Hisan Empire’s Prince Loki”.

<The incident this time was caused by the idiocy of the merchant Butan alone. Therefore, the Hisan Empire rescinds itself of any and all responsibilities derived of such.>

It was a formal letter, but the contents could be very much resumed as those.

It appeared that the emperor deprived of its nobility rank to the merchant Butan a few days before the incident took place.

Therefore, this time, the incident was charged to a “mere merchant”, not one of the nobility.

<Still... we present to the Consul Regent Isis, a token of our sympathies with our sincere honesty.>

At the end of his addressal, the messenger from the Imperial Prince Loki presented a large sum of money towards the city of Orn as he expressed their condolences.

It was a considerable amount, but it also had the purpose of lowering the sour taste Orn might have against the irresponsible actions of the empire.

“...In other words. Is like the Hisan Empire saying <We’re not going to fight against Orn, yet> Or at least that what the messenger implied.”

Those words were spoken by the Guard Knight Lienhardt, who purposely bothered to report to Yamato.

In order to promptly save his lord Isis, he resigned from the Order of Knights, but was reinstated after her safe return in reward.

“But still, the imperial army will come.”

“Yeah, it would seem so.”

Yamato agreed with Lienhardt’s predictions.

After confronting the man called Loki, the flame of ambition could be seen dwelling in his eyes.

He was a dangerous young man trying to advance his supremacy with large talent but never being conceited.

Going by their geographical locations, the empire would not yet invade the city of Orn.

But in a few more years, with the goal of “Continent domination”, the Empire will move forward its armies.

And, “when that time comes”, there surely will be some sort of influence in the remote village of Urd, located towards the north of the city of Orn.

“We need to be more careful in the future.”

“Yeah.”

With that, the report about the relations with the Empire from Lienhardt ended.

“By the way... you’ve been authorized the “Urd Store” you applied for, Yamato.”

“That’s great to hear.”

This was something he had requested to Orn officials in stead of the people of Urd.

After noticing an empty shop in a back alley near Orn’s Bazaar, Yamato applied for permission to open up an Urd specialties store in that location.

“Yamato... you are the benefactor of the Consul Regent. Isis-sama even said ‘If he wants, we can give him a large commercial building in the main street.’”

“I helped Isis out of my free will. Don’t worry about it.”

Superfluous rewards were unnecessary since Yamato had to keep up his front as a “wanderer”.

Besides, at this point in time, the production capacity of the village of Urd wasn’t very high.

After all, only recently the production of food and household supplies had stabilized.

There was no need for a large building, a simple small shop in a back alley was more than enough.

“You’re really not a greedy fellow, huh...”

“ <A wealthy person does not get tired of wealth / Chouja tomi ni akazu> Is a saying in my country... it means “There’s no limit to human desires and that is dangerous”.”

“Sounds like something you would say, Yamato.”

Lienhardt gave an awkward smile to Yamato's response.

When Yamato first met him, he was a knight who would not show such a flexible expression. Even without a sword in his hand, he gave off an image of being a stiff person.

Perhaps something inside of him changed when he abandoned his position as a Guard Knight in order to save Isis.

As a knight in service of the consul, he was likely to grow even more.

Yamato felt like he could leave the situation of Isis to the current Lienhardt.

"I'll recognize you a little, Yamato. However, that's as a swordsman... I don't intend to lose to you as a man! "

"Not like I'm going to compete with anyone. Besides, I'm not a swordsman, I'm a simple villager."

"Ohh... I suppose that's true. But still, I'll never lose to you, this I swear to Isis-sama! "

"Suit yourself."

That stubborn side of Lienhardt hadn't changed at all.

He spoke about how he would 'defeat' Yamato the next time he came to Orn to set up the Urd shop.

And after talking about their next reunion, the chat with Lienhardt came to an end.



The property contract of the Urd shop was successfully completed and the advanced preparations proceeded without issue.

All that was left was to select the products once they returned to the village, and then it would become a full-fledged shop.

———It's been several days since they rescued Isis.

And finally, the morning when they would return to the village of Urd, came.

Chapter 52

Promise of reunion and return

A few days had passed since Yamato rescued Isis, the consul regent girl, and the morning of the day when they would return to the village of Urd came.

“Yamato-sama, the loading of the wagon has finished.”

“We’re done here too, Yamato-niichan! “

The loading of the goods purchased at Orn’s bazaar was completed and it was time for the departure.

They had come to sell crafts, such as high-quality leather goods and pottery to this city, made in Urd which was a village located far in the mountains.

And on the other hand, instead of returning with an empty wagon, it was packed with items purchased in this city such as medicines, spices, crafts and other home supplies.

Since there was no currency-based economy in the village of Urd, the coins earned in the market would end up basically being stored.

“Everyone, come and visit the bazaar again.”

“This Oba-chan will miss you, children...”

“You too, Mountain Clan Jii-san, come sell your stuff again.”

Before departure, several merchants from the bazaar flocked the Urd wagon, saying parting words.

The period in which the people of Urd stayed in Orn wasn’t long.

But still, with the cheerful voices of children raised from morning until sunset, everyone in the bazaar had a familiarity and showed empathy for the hardworking children who gave their all to sell the merchandise.

Yamato wasn't good at servicing people, but while watching the buying and selling of good throughout the day, he could fully feel the warm spirit of the people of the city.

(Well then...)

Yamato turned his eyes towards the aloof Lacq, who had come to see them off as well.

"...With that said. We leave it in your care for now, Lacq."

"He, he... Ehh. Is that really okay with you? Yamato-danna."

"Yeah. We'll come deliver the goods from the village. Until then, can you watch over the Urd shop?"

"Well, if danna is the one asking, I'll give it my all! Please leave it to me."

Yamato decided to leave the store which was scheduled to open in the back alley of Orn to Lacq.

Regarding the selected person, it was done at his own discretion, but nobody objected that decision.

"I'm not sure how it'll go... but I think it'll be fine with Lacq-san."

"With this, now he'll be no longer the 'unemployed Lacq oji-chan'!"

"Even if I work, I'll be an eternal debauchee, kids."

After the fierce battle to rescue Isis, the village children, including the village chief's granddaughter Liscia, came to trust Lacq a bit more.

All because against the danger posed by the knight of the empire Barrès and the magic sword Mad Storm, it was Lacq who protected the village boy.

Everyone knew he was a man usually frivolous and going by his own pace, but he would take action when the time came.

"Then, as a souvenir... I'll let you have 'this', Lacq."

"Huh? Oooo-Almost dropped it..."

When the two of them were alone, Yamato threw a gift to Lacq.

A sculpture made of a clear red crystal. A handmade sculpture made by the old blacksmith Gaton.

“Eh... th-this is? A farewell gift, huh...”

“You’re the only one who noticed its values while it stood there decorating the stall in the bazaar.”

“What, what could you be meaning...”

Lacq whistled while pretending not to know, but still, Yamato continued the talk.

“There’s ‘more to sell’ in the mountains of Urd. When it calms down a bit, you should come visit.”

“...alright... I’ll go play over there soon, danna.”

The crystal was “Urd’s rock salt”.

Lacq was the only person who had noticed the true value of the sculpture that was exhibited at the stall.

For many merchants and countless citizens it went by unnoticed, but since the first day, Lacq was aware of the true nature of the “Urd’s salt”.

With the incident of the Spiritual Beast, not many knew of the rock salt that hasn’t been mined for a hundred years.

After Lacq noticed it, Yamato then knew that he was not a normal man.

That’s the reason he invited him to “come play” at the village of Urd, in the usual way.



With the final confirmation of the items loaded finished, the departure of the group was ready.

“Please wait, Yamato-sama! “

It was then.

A girl riding a horse alongside a knight rushed to see them off.

“Isis and Lienhardt, huh?”

“Isis-sama said that no matter what...”

The last ones to see Yamato off was the knight guard Lienhardt and the consul regent girl, Isis.

She took the time between her busy political issues to see them depart.

“Yamato-sama, I truly offer you my apologies. The thing is, I never really showed you the “third gift” I promised...”

What the girl Isis was referring was the three gifts (Sanko no rei “三個の礼”) she had literally misunderstood the meaning of what Yamato tried to convey that time before (Sanko no rei “三顧の礼”).

She, being the consul regent, tried to recruit Yamato as a strategic asset for Orn since he was called “the wise man in the north”.

She misunderstood when Yamato refused, using the excuse that she didn’t really appealed to him in her speech and understood it as she not giving him the “three gifts”.

Her first gift was a delicious fruit native to Orn, the second one was a beautiful flower from the city.

And when she tried to present the third gift, the kidnap incident occurred, therefore she couldn’t present it.

However, she did not forget, and rushed to this place to give Yamato the third one.

“Phew... Actually...”

Calming her agitation, Isis opened her mouth with a serious look on her face.

“The last thing I wanted to show you was... the people of this city’s...”

“Smiles’...right? “

“Eh!?... How, did you...”

Isis had her eyes wide open in surprise after Yamato finished what she was trying to say.

But by looking at her expression, Yamato felt like his prediction was correct.

“A little magic trick. I guessed so by talking with the people in the city. They spoke of you as if you were their most important person and were quite proud of you.”

This girl, Isis cared and worried about Orn more than anyone in the Consul household.

She herself walked around and listened to the citizens’ voice.

Everyone in the city admitted she was a little clumsy, but they admired her sincere attitude and seriousness when taking action.

That was the splendor of Isis, the consul regent.

“In that case, Yamato-sama, there’s a place I’d like to show to you! A place where every citizen, no matter who they are, can smile...”

“You don’t need to be so thoughtful.”

“Eh...”

Isis was at loss of how to respond, but Yamato continued speaking.

“There’s no need for that, since I’ve already seen it. These past few days... the blooming “Smile of Orn”.”

“Yamato-sama... that means...”

“Yeah. You can rely on me if there’s trouble. At that time, I’ll come to Orn to help. After all that was the meaning of the “Sanko no rei” promise.”

“Yes! I’ll be in your care when that time comes... Yamato-sama! “

Isis said with a beaming smile, and yet... she was also shedding tears.

She never expected Yamato to reconsider giving his help to Orn, which he had once refused.

(Oh god...)

Yamato was troubled on how to react to this girl.

She was happy, yet she was crying... women truly changed expressions quickly.

For him who was not good at communicating with others, women were something unknown whom he couldn't really comprehend.



The farewells successfully ended.

“Alright, then Urd trade caravan... time to go home.”

“Yes, Yamato-sama. “

“Leave it to me, Yamato-niichan! “

In response to his words, the Urd wagon started to move slowly.

“Yamato-sama, take care...”

“Worry not about Isis-sama, Yamato, I'll protect her.”

“Danna, later! “

“Everybody, come play again soon! “

Being seen off by Isis, the knight Lienhardt, the self-proclaimed debauchee Lacq, and the people they met at the bazaar, the wagon traveled north leaving the city behind.

After leaving the town, several days towards the north was the nostalgic village of Urd.

By the time of their arrival, it would probably be the harvesting season of the Inahon

grains.

Thanks to the blessing of the weather and the increased cultivable land, they were expecting a several times larger yield this year.

The busiest and happiest harvest season was about to start.

(Orn, huh?... It really felt like the time flew...)

Looking back at the city of Orn, getting smaller and smaller at the distance, Yamato was overcome with emotion.

He remembered the many happenings that took place in Orn.

(It feels... like I'll be getting busy again soon...)

The autumn harvest and winter preparations. Securing supplies in order to get ready the opening of the Urd shop.

And responding to the threat pushing from the east, the Hisan Empire.

(There's a lot to take into consideration. Seriously... But I guess it's not all bad things...)

Swayed by the wagon, Yamato muttered while he smiled, but nobody took notice of it.



“Yamato-ani-sama, the village of Urd has come into view! “

“Really! It's been a while! “

“Look, Yamato-sama. The fields of the village where the inahon is planted look so golden...”

A few days later after traveling through the highway, they finally returned to the village.

Beyond the highway pass, the longed-for settlement came into sight.

“Yeah, it looks that way.”

It's been almost two years since Yamato first came to Urd.

And now, a new season was about to start.

Chapter 53

Idle talk: The playful Lacq

After the wagon of the people of Urd departed from the city, the usual everyday sight could be seen spreading across the bazaar.

“Well then...”

Lacq sat alone in a back alley slightly away from the bazaar.

The signboard of “for rent” was just taken down and in front of him was a vacant store.

This was the place Yamato contracted, and the future location of the Urd shop, where they will sell the products from that mountainous village.

Being appointed by Yamato as the person in charge, Lacq came to check up on the store.

“The building is old, but the support pillars are solid...”

This was not a popular place, since it was located in a back alley, and the store became empty with the pass of time.

However, the two-story building was firmly made, and with a glance, anyone who saw it would understand that this was a good property.

“It’s easy to come and go since there’s a side entrance and a warehouse in the back...”

Yamato properly inspected it in advance.

The items to be sold in this store would be commodities from the village of Urd that would be carried here in a regular basis.

So, it was a blessing that it had a warehouse to store the stock.

Yamato might have chosen this vacant store based on his plans for the future.

<The products to be sold will be brought by a high-speed wagon>

According to his explanation, the “high-speed wagon” is said to be completed soon in the village.

A high-performance wagon car designed by Yamato and manufactured by the Mountain Clan blacksmith Gatou.

The plan was to transport the goods from the village of Urd to the city of Orn at an overwhelming speed using one of the best horses in the continent, the Han horses.

By using a special wheel and a flexible suspension, high-speed travel seemed to be achievable.

“I still cannot believe it. But it feels like if it’s that person... he can make it.”

Even to him, Yamato was a peculiar person.

A villager with distinctive black hair and eyes, and unsocial and blunt manner of speaking.

Whether the other party was a Knight Guard or the girl appointed as Consul Regent, his blunt tone and attitude did not change.

In addition, he had heard that during the kidnapping incident a few days ago, Yamato faced the “Empire’s Second Prince, Loki.”

In front of such a person, he rescued the girl Isis and made a safe return.

“As expected of Yamato-danna...”

He had loved to be there, to see the moment the calm and collected Loki, also nicknamed “Crimson Mask”, had that attitude blown.

“First, Orn’s Consul Regent, then the Crown Prince of the Empire... as expected of him...”

Although Yamato was just being himself, several dignitaries were involved in those actions.

The person himself claimed to be a simple villager, but Lacq had the “hunch” that he would be involved in the uproar that would take place in the continent in the future.



“Hmm?… Ohh, you came.”

It was then.

Lacq spoke towards a pillar in the back of the store, where nobody should be.

“...To be able to discern my stealth.”

“Well, I’ve been in a good humor lately.”

A woman came from behind the pillar.

The voice sounded somewhat distorted, modulated, but it was definitely a woman the one Lacq talked to.

Her face was hidden by a hood, but a slight glimpse showed she was at her prime.

“He’s very difficult to investigate... that man named “Yamato of Urd” is a dangerous person, Lacq-sama.”

The woman gave a warning.

She couldn’t explain it well, but she knew that person was dangerous.

“Well, if you say he’s dangerous, he is. After all, he fought against that Sir Barrès and his magic sword “Mad Storm”.”

An amazing fight unfolded as Lacq was watching from the evacuating wagon in the distance.

Against that big sword, Yamato dealt against it with only a knife and mysterious martial skills.

It was likely that Yamato was not serious since he never pulled the sword he carried diagonally on his back.

Also, the person himself stubbornly said he was <Not a swordsman. Just a simple villager.> , truly, downright stubbornness.

“...I also told you last time, but if you give your permission, I’ll erase this “Yamato of Urd”.”

The woman advised Lacq as she pulled a black dagger from her waist.

Yamato of Urd should be assassinated before his presence and power becomes increasingly dangerous. And if it was her, she could easily sneak into Urd Village, and carry out the assassination.

Her words, the words of the most famous assassin in the continent were told with conviction, not conceit.

“Don’t even try it... Even for someone like you, Yamato-danna has surely noticed your existence already.”

“That can’t happen...”

The woman assassin couldn’t conceal her surprise in her voice after hearing the warning words of Lacq.

Is she were to get serious, she could even sneak inside the castle of the Empire or the Kingdom and steal from them.

But to hear that the man named “Yamato of Urd”, a mere villager, was aware that she was monitoring him.

“It seems like he also has vaguely guessed my true identity. Yamato-danna, a person I can’t really see the depth of...”

It felt to him that since the first day, Yamato apparently noticed his real identity.

However, he didn’t mind it at all, and spoke without doubting Lacq.

Like a majestic ocean or the endless sky, the essence of Yamato was vast and dark.

“Lacq-sama... no, Lacquell-sama. Would you stop this playing around and return to the main house in the Holy City soon? “

The woman assassin strongly called to Lacq using his real name, which she was told not to.

She chided him on his choice of being a “shopkeeper of a dirty store in such a small trade city”.

“A little more... after the fun of playing around along Yamato-danna ends, I’ll definitely go back to the main house...”

Even after being called by his real name, Lacq dared to still use his playful tone as he answered. A little more until he got the “treasure” he was looking for.

“Understood... Just a little more time then, Lacq-sama.”

“Yeah... just “a little more”...”

As he replied, Lacq moved his gaze towards the window, to the north. Towards the direction where the Urd wagon... where Yamato left.

(Still, the next time danna comes...”further turmoil” is sure to happen...)

Lacq murmured those words to himself, so than nobody else would hear them.

All the while holding the “red crystal of rock salt” he received as a parting gift from Yamato.

Chapter 54

Idle talk: The Young Knights of the Hisan Empire

A few days had passed after the disposal of the aristocrat merchant Butan, whom had committed a crime.

The order of the Crimson Knights of the Hisan Empire, which were on an expedition, were on their way to return to the Imperial Capital.

These elite knights advanced east on the highway, with Prince Loki, the leader of the Imperial Army, in the center of the formation.

“The negotiations regarding the issue of Orn’s Consul Regent went well, Barrès.”

While perfectly managing the horse he rode, Prince Loki spoke towards the giant knight who was riding parallel to him.

The incident this time was the crime of the arrogant Butan, and to conceal it and maintain the friendly relationship with Orn using a large amount of compensation money.

And since the money was collected from Butan’s shops across the empire, the empire itself suffered relatively nothing.

“Hmph, I see. As usual, you’re good with words, Loki.”

The Knight Barrès, who wasn’t really into diplomatic plots, yawned without showing interest in response.

In contrast to him, Loki, his friend from the Knight’s Academy, was a man who excelled not only at swordsmanship, but also in scheming and trickery.

“Lord Barrès. No matter how much you and His Highness Loki know each other from your student days, please use a more polite way when addressing him.”

An older knight who rode his horse behind Loki admonished Barrès for his crude way

of speaking.

Barrès was one of the Knight Captains of the order, but the difference between him and Loki was obvious, since the latter was the child of the emperor.

Disposing of an insolent person who spoke so familiarly towards royalty in public would usually be the norm.

“Its fine, Gramps. Like I always tell you, Barrès is the only I can call a friend.”

“...Understood, Your Highness Loki.”

The Older Knight obediently follows the words of the lord he has served from an early age.

This back and forth between him and Loki was a regular exchange. Barrès meanwhile, listened to this to and fro but chose to ignore it.

“By the way, ‘that man’...Yamato’s figure was nowhere to be seen in the Consul’s conference.”

“What... I see...”

That was the report from the messenger sent to take care of the negotiations a few days ago.

The man named Yamato fought one on one against him, splendidly handled a huge wild horse and killed the criminal Butan.

And without knowing the destination where that mysterious swordsman had gone, Barrès couldn’t help but to sigh.

“But it seems like a similar man was seen in Orn’s bazaar.”

“What!? Is that true, Loki!? “

Upon hearing the new information from Loki, the complexion of Barrès, who’s horse was running in parallel changed.

He was excited to know more about the mysterious man Yamato, who hid his mouth

with a cloth and whose origins were unknown.

“Yeah. According to the course of events, it seems like the similar man was apparently a trader or merchant. Although there’s no information about which village he came from.”

The spies from Loki who infiltrated Orn’s bazaar said the “man who seemed to be Yamato” had a strong vigilance and couldn’t get closer.

It was hard to think that even to these masters in covert operations, the vigilance net of the other party was hard to even break.

“That much is enough for me...”

Barrès replied while smiling satisfied.

The person he exchanged sword blows with, Yamato, called he and the other the “Mountain Dog Group”, a group of thieves he had never heard of.

However, how could mere thieves have such leadership and combat abilities. There probably was a reason behind why they posed as such.

“In other words, if I go to the city of Orn, I’ll meet him again.”

Such a roundabout way matter little for Barrès.

He simply felt fortunate to be able to meet Yamato again.

“Barrès... seems like you’re quite happy.”

“Yeah. “Since I’ve become captain, there’s been nothing but troublesome matters... but I’ve finally came across such an interesting man after so long.”

In response to Loki, Barrès answered with a beast-like smile.

He remembered the appearance of the swordsman Yamato, fighting against him while even concealing his “trump card”.

“As you say, he surely is an interesting man. I didn’t get to see his sword skills, but he was quite sharp...”

Loki raised his evaluation of Yamato as a tactician, while remembering the information he received from Barrès.

He broke through the trap laid by the aristocrat merchant Butan using an adequate and precise judgment considering the situation.

And all the while, keeping his allies from being harmed, Loki couldn't help but to acknowledge Yamato's abilities as he dashed away.

A knight with such intelligence and determination were not many, even across the whole imperial forces.

Yamato might be a competent commander who hasn't show all his potential, and possesses a deep charm.

"Hey, Loki! I already said it, but... Yamato is my prey. Don't go stealing him! "

"I already replied at that time, but... there are some things I can't back down, like back in the academy, Barrès."

"Ha! I guess you did! In that case, it'll have to be first come, first served... about that Yamato."

"I suppose you're right..."

Among the imperial forces, these knights jokingly spoke to each other.

It was a momentary encounter, but these two had a high evaluation of Yamato.

"But, before that... something needs to be done about the corruption in the Empire's military."

The Hisan Empire, with its politic of territory expansion due to its goal of "continental domination", had grown too much.

Barrès wondered if it was because his home country grew too rapidly that such crookedness and corruption occurred.

"The Empire's large reformation will happen without fail... I'll count on you at that time, Barrès."

“The only thing I’m good at is swinging my sword... Loki.”

“I know... I’ll count on you at “that time”.”

Loki, the third son of the emperor, does not have a high inheriting rights.

However, his outstanding ability and charm are higher than that of his older brothers, the other princes.

For that reason alone, there are many knights and aristocrats who’ve sworn allegiance directly to Loki, this included Barrès and the Crimson Knights.

“The major reformation will be a difficult path. But, after seeing that man... after seeing Yamato, it feels easy for some reason. Truly strange.”

“I’m sure it is! We might also run into Yamato in the imperial capital.”

“That can’t happen... but, it’s scary to think it might happen.”

The imperial prince Loki and the knight Barrès laughed as they joked.

No matter how great of a man or swordsman Yamato was, he wouldn’t be involved in the major reformation the empire was falling into.

———There was nobody present who would’ve imagined this foreshadowing would actually come to be. And of course, even Yamato was unaware this.

And like this, living in a secluded frontier village, Yamato would be caught in the middle of the uproar in which was staked the fate of the continent.

Chapter 54.5

Idle talk: Development of a new weapon

This is a story after returning from the trade city Orn.

In the village of Urd, the harvest of the Inahon was over and the preparations for the winter were taking place.

“How are you doing, Gaton-jii-san? “

“It’s you, huh, kid. As you can see.”

At that time, Yamato visited Gaton’s workshop. It was to check up on the work he had requested.

“Ohh, you sure have worked hard.”

Finding the completed farm equipment in a corner of the workshop, Yamato expressed his admiration.

“Hmph, the work wasn’t hard. But you are an odd person, to come up with such strange tools.”

Towards Yamato’s compliments, Gaton answered in a humbled tone. And as usual, his tone was harsh, characteristic of the Mountain Clan People, but Yamato didn’t mind.

“By the way, Jii-san. I hoped you could give me one of those secret stones you use during manufacturing.”

“The stones I use... you mean the “Fire stones of God’s Wrath”? Absolutely not.”

After hearing Yamato’s plead, Gaton refused his request. At the end of his line of sight rested a metal box that was kept strictly away from others.

“If those are to be handled by human hands, they can be very dangerous...”

Inside that box were secret stones used by the Mountain Clan People called “Fire stones of God’s Wrath”.

Their appearance was similar to a jewel, but they were dangerous stone that exploded upon receiving a shock.

Yamato was shown the explosion a while ago, so he knew of its nature and dangers. That was the reason why, to be prepared for what was to come, he really wanted those stones.

“The issue with the impact can be solved by putting them in a bag like this.”

“A bag you say... what the hell is that? “

Gaton widened his eyes in surprise after feeling the bag Yamato handed over to him. It was a mysterious cloth that deformed and absorbed the pressure of Gaton’s finger when he pushed it.

“You can carry that stone by wrapping it in a piece of this cloth.

“I see... you can indeed carry it with you like this...”

Yamato’s words were convincing for Gaton.

Although he was a stubborn craftsman, there was greed in his eyes to try to incorporate whatever could be used. And right now, he was carefully observing the bag.

(I never expected that shock-resistance material to be useful in such a place...)

The inside of the bag Yamato handed to Gaton was lined with shock-resistance material.

It was cut from the outdoor sleeping mat he had when he was transferred to this world. With the high-quality low-rebound foam, it had the property of considerably absorbing impacts.

“I understood its safety. But still, the “Fire stone of God’s Wrath” is still a secret stone. For me to give it to you...”

“How about this “core” in exchange?”

“The core, you say!? Are you sure you want to give up on that!?”

Not expecting to hear that, Gaton exclaimed aloud in surprise.

He never even dreamed of receiving the core of a Spiritual Beast in exchange for anything.

“The core of such a large Spiritual Beast is rare... with its price, not even a small country can afford to buy it...”

Gaton was surprised since a core like this had an incredibly high value.

According the Mountain Clan People, a race who lived as one with the earth, the core bestowed good fortune to the person who carried it, and protected them from all diseases and curses.

Therefore, it was sought after by kings and large merchants who didn’t care if they had to pile up all their fortune for it.

“I’m not interested in money. More than that, the power of the “Fire stone of God’s Wrath” will be more useful to us.”

“Hmph. Unselfish man to the end, as usual.”

“That’s something I don’t want to be told by you, Jii-san.”

“I guess you’re right.”

They jokingly spoke to each other.

Even though their race and age were different, they both were quite awkward. Gaton promised to give Yamato the “Fire stone of God’s Wrath”.

“Well, I know it’s sudden, Jii-san. But, please make this ‘pole’”

“Hmph. Hand it over, I knew it would end up like this. Let me see... w-what is this...?”

Looking at the paper presented by Yamato, Gaton was at lost for words. A design of a

new weapon using the nature of the “Fire stone of God’s Wrath” was drawn in the paper.

“It’s possible to make this... but it’ll break once you use it. And the arm of the person who uses it will be torn off...”

Reading the design and calculating in his mind, Gaton gave his honest opinion.

About its destructive power and the durability of the ‘pole’. And it would also take the lives of those who use it, with a terrible rebound.

“The ‘poles’ are disposable. Please make several of them by spring. I’ll handle the recoil.”

“Make such a dangerous weapon. Is a Spiritual Beast going to be your opponent...?”

“Yeah. But that’s only a hunch though.”

Gaton easily saw through Yamato’s intention. This was an unnecessary weapon to use on an ordinary thief.

In other words, Yamato had the feeling he would confront a Spiritual Beast again, like in the rock salt mine. And this was needed to overcome such time.

“If you do something dangerous, Liscia and the brats will worry... Kid.”

“Yeah, I know.”

Knowing first-hand the dangers of a Spiritual Beast better than anyone, Gaton was a bit sentimental.

But Yamato replied that he will be okay, to reassure the old blacksmith.

“Also, about the core, can you split it?”

“What!? Hey, wasn’t I getting this in exchange!?”

To his sudden suggestion, Gaton replied loudly. That worried impression he gave earlier faded as if it was a lie.

“I want to use it as an amulet. Or could it be that even for Jii-san, breaking the core is something impossible? “

“Hmph. Don’t spout nonsense! There is no stone nor metal that cannot be handled by the Mountain Clan People! Such a core poses no difficulty! “

“I expected no less. Just like the ‘poles’, it’s okay if it’s done by the time the snow melts.”

Gaton agreed to divided the large core and produce several amulets with it.

His eyes shone at the prospect of processing a core, which he had never experienced up until now.

“Also, that Lienhardt’s shield technique was quite interesting. Can you make a shield like the one on this blueprint?”

“Hey, Kid! You want to kill me!? Working me the whole winter!”

“If you can’t, then I’ll ask the others.”

“Hmph, it’s obvious that I can do it myself. In exchange, spare some of that good wine during winter! “

Gaton was a master blacksmith, one of only three in the continent.

Although he liked to grunt and was a little rough, Gaton was a bit too dependable.

“Also, you gotta come assist me! “

“Okay, got it.”

During winter, the majority of the work was done indoors. Yamato thought it wasn’t bad to assist Gaton and learn a bit of the work of a blacksmith.

(Oh god... It feels like this year’s winter will be over in the blink of an eye...)

With those thoughts in mind, winter slowly and steadily approached the village.

It was a season that encouraged indoors work in each house and made the villagers look forwards to the warmth of spring.

Characters and terms so far Part 3

-----◇-----Residents of the City of Orn-----◇-----



【Isis】

Young girl acting as the Consul Regent for the trade city of Orn.

She is a friendly girl with a beautiful face who is working hard as a substitute of her father, the Consul, who is bedridden and unconscious due to a disease. She is a slight air-head, but her straight and active attitude has gained the trust of the citizens. A bit older than Liscia of the Village of Urd, and as a woman, she has a quite developed body.

To save Orn, which was in a dangerous location surrounded by large countries, she appealed to Yamato, the “wise man of the north” for help.



【Lienhardt】

Young man belonging to Orn's Knight Guard.

He's also the dedicated escort knight of the Consul Regent Isis, always helping and assisting her. One of the strongest knights in the central part of the continent, earning him the title of "Ten Swords", his sword mastery is considerable. Weak against underhanded plots due to his straightforward character, but has dramatically grown since he met Yamato.

- Special possessions and equipment at this time: ???Spear

【Lacq】

A young man who according to himself likes to fool around.

He always wanders around the city of Orn speaking in a frivolous tone. He has the skill to lower the caution other have towards him, making it easy for him to get along with others easily. He was acquainted with Isis, the Consul Regen who was in trouble, and acted as a bridge between her and Yamato.

He possesses no fighting abilities, but his physical specs are high, has incredibly good eyesight and vast knowledge. There are many mysteries behind him, like the woman assassin who called him "Lacquell-sama" and for him to head towards the "main house". But still, he's an existence that is hard to hate.

【Woman Assassin】

Unidentified woman who's also a follower of Lacq.

The face hidden under the hood is beautiful, but her altered voice makes it hard to discern her sex.

One of the most famous assassins in the continent, and can even steal from the castle of the empire and the kingdom with ease if she were to get serious. She considers Yamato to be a danger, since she can't quite get a grasp on that person.

【Government officials of Orn】

They are loyal to Isis, the Consul Regent, since she has been like a daughter to them since she was a child. They don't know the identity of Yamato of Urd.

【People of Orn's bazaar】

Everyone got along well with the people in Urd's stall. They don't know the identity of the people of Urd nor Yamato.

—◇—Hisan Empire Western Division—◇—



【Barrès】

A man belonging to the Knights of the Empire in the east of the continent.

User of the Magic Sword called “Mad Storm”. With incredible strength and a magnificent large build, he is a powerful knight who became part of the Empire's top three with his incredible sword skills. He is a knight who gives off the vibe of a dangerous beast, and doesn't falter in face of someone strong.

Barrès Irvine, and was a classmate of Prince Loki in his Knight Academy days.

- Special possessions and equipment at the current time: Magic Sword “Mad Storm”



【Loki】

Third prince, child of the emperor of the Hisan Empire in the east part of the continent.

Was raised as a knight since his low succession rights and circumstances of his birth. A prince knight feared throughout the continent due to his excellent sight in tactics and strategy, also known as “Crimson Mask”.

He has a calm and collected image, but the fighting spirit hidden beneath is a brazen one. Aims at reforming the Empire which has grown corrupt.

The knight Barrès, being his classmate from the knight academy days, is his best friend and the only he confides his real intentions.

• Special possessions and equipment at the current time: Han-equivalent horse.
???Rapier.

【Butan】

Merchant of the empire who bought his aristocrat rank with money.

Had a problematic attitude and an underhanded personality, but he was one of the biggest merchants in the empire. In order to further grow his wealth and rank, he infiltrated the empire’s next target as a common merchant. When he got excited, he laughed with a “Buhihihi” tone. Deceased.

【Old Empire’s Knight】

Elder knight and one of the captains of the Crimson Knight Order directly under Loki.

Called “Jii” (Gramps) by Loki since he had served him since an early age, and deeply

trusted. Although of his advanced age, both his fighting and commanding abilities are excellent.

-----◇-----Urd Trade Group-----◇-----



【Yamato】

An ordinary young man who was transported from modern day Japan into another world.

With distinctive black hair and eyes, and unsocial and blunt manner of speaking. Even if the other party was an aristocrat, his tone and attitude remain the same. Not very good at socializing, especially bad at dealing with children. Although he is dexterous with his hands, he is sometimes a bit insensitive and clumsy (Especially regarding romantic emotions). His “business smile” is terrible.



【Liscia】

Granddaughter of the village chief of Urd.

A beautiful girl with a lovely face who, along with Yamato, started the restoration of the village on behalf of her grandfather, the village chief. A fourteen-year-old adult. She is an excellent hunter and her commanding abilities have improved. Worried about the girl named Isis who got close to Yamato.



【Gaton】

Old blacksmith of the Mountain Clan People who lives in the outskirts of Urd Village.

A stubborn old man with a bad mouth. But his skills as a blacksmith are excellent, and he is able to instantly understand the rough drawings of Yamato and craft the items swiftly. No matter how much money he is paid, he would never receive a request he didn't like. Not very good at riding vehicles.

He is one of the only three people in the continent who possess the title of Grand Master Blacksmith. He found an old friend of the same race in the city of Orn.

-----Children of the village-----

The oldest three girls: A little younger than Liscia.



【Guts】

Eldest kid among the village's children... turned out to be a tomboy girl.

A hot-blooded kid with a simple character, but with the presence of a leader and generosity towards other children. Slightly younger than Liscia, but when dressed properly, she turns out to be a beautiful girl. Everyone calls her by her nickname, since her real name is long and hard to pronounce.

(TLN: Men and women dress slightly different in Urd, Guts always wears pants instead of a dress, so it was “easy” to mistake her for a boy)



【Chloë】

A quiet girl the same age as Guts.

Although not good at hard work and haughty like him, she has an excellent ability to draw pictures and write characters. She's a smart girl who helps Liscia, she also helps

with the managements of the village recently.



【Kuran】

Beautiful girl of the Han clan and the direct descendant of the late chieftain.

Now she holds the position of leader of the archer cavalry formed by the surviving Han clan children. Especially talented at mounted archery and with an unyielding spirit. Her hobby is to collect whistles. Doesn't like the streets of the city very much since there's garbage.

Comentary on weapons' performance so far Part 3

【Magic Sword】

(TLN: It does say "sword" but probably the better interpretation would be "Magic Arms"?)

An heirloom left behind by the "Ancient Super Empire" when civilization was more developed than it is now.

Swords, spears, shields, armors, they are treasures imbued with strong power, which effects increase in proportion to the abilities of their wielder.

In the era where Yamato arrived, they are impossible to reproduce. With such scarcity, their value is incredible high and they are hard to obtain even for large merchants or royalty. It is said that no more than twenty of these magic arms exist in the continent.

【Magic Sword – Mad Storm】

Sword wielded by the Empire's Knight Barrès.

It has the ability to block ranged attacks such as arrows with strong winds. It is said that it also has the ability to deliver range attacks using invisible blades of wind.

【Urd-type: Armored wagon (Chariot)】

A wagon remodeled by the old blacksmith Gatou following a design made by Yamato.

Although it looks like an ordinary two-horse-drawn wagon, it bolsters a surprisingly high defensive power and has higher maneuverability.

《Features》

- Using two Han horses, its speed is several times that of a normal wagon.
- Special wheels and suspension, making it less shaky even in high speed travel.
- For the hood covering the wagon, "Urd-type Layered Defensive Membrane" was used. Can block arrows.
- The same "Urd-type Layered Defensive Membrane" is also used to cover and protect

the horses.

- Attacks using a crossbow can be performed towards any direction thanks to hidden windows.

Weakness: Not good at close quarters combat or attacks with a sword. (Because the composite membrane can be cut and torn.)

【Urd-type Layered Defensive Membrane】

Defensive leather designed by Yamato and crafted by the old Gaton.

A versatile defensive material that can be made into different shapes, consisting of woven layers of thin metal and hard, cured leather. Can offer some protection from normal sword strikes and spear attacks, and arrows from ordinary bows cannot pierce through.

However, it's not strong enough to guard against strong piercing attacks, after all, it's just a defensive "cloth". Special blacksmith technology was required for the production of the thin metal.

【High-speed trade wagon】

High performance wagon car designed by Yamato and manufactured by Gaton.

It's a transportation vehicle capable of going between the city of Orn and the village of Urd at an overwhelming speed by making use of one of the best horses in the continent, the Han horses. Fast travel was accomplished by using special soft wheels and a suspension. It's a wagon specialized in in transport quantity rather than combat capability.



PDF by: traitorAIZEN